

CLASSIC REPRINT SERIES

---


# BELLS AND HOBBLES

---



by  
Edwin James Brady

Forgotten Books



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2025

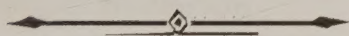
*Glennce Woy*

**797,885 Books**

are available to read at

**Forgotten Books**

**[www.ForgottenBooks.com](http://www.ForgottenBooks.com)**



**Forgotten Books' App**

Available for mobile, tablet & eReader



Download on the  
**App Store**



ANDROID APP ON

**Google play**



ISBN 978-1-331-79898-9

PIBN 10236232

This book is a reproduction of an important historical work. Forgotten Books uses state-of-the-art technology to digitally reconstruct the work, preserving the original format whilst repairing imperfections present in the aged copy. In rare cases, an imperfection in the original, such as a blemish or missing page, may be replicated in our edition. We do, however, repair the vast majority of imperfections successfully; any imperfections that remain are intentionally left to preserve the state of such historical works.

Forgotten Books is a registered trademark of FB & c Ltd.

Copyright © 2015 FB & c Ltd.

FB & c Ltd, Dalton House, 60 Windsor Avenue, London, SW19 2RR.

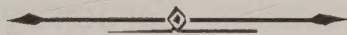
Company number 08720141. Registered in England and Wales.

For support please visit [www.forgottenbooks.com](http://www.forgottenbooks.com)

# 1 MONTH OF **FREE** READING

at

**www.ForgottenBooks.com**



By purchasing this book you are eligible for one month membership to ForgottenBooks.com, giving you unlimited access to our entire collection of over 700,000 titles via our web site and mobile apps.

To claim your free month visit:

**www.forgottenbooks.com/free236232**

English  
Français  
Deutsche  
Italiano  
Español  
Português

[www.forgottenbooks.com](http://www.forgottenbooks.com)

**Mythology** Photography **Fiction**  
Fishing Christianity **Art** Cooking  
Essays Buddhism Freemasonry  
Medicine **Biology** Music **Ancient**  
**Egypt** Evolution Carpentry Physics  
Dance Geology **Mathematics** Fitness  
Shakespeare **Folklore** Yoga Marketing  
**Confidence** Immortality Biographies  
Poetry **Psychology** Witchcraft  
Electronics Chemistry History **Law**  
Accounting **Philosophy** Anthropology  
Alchemy Drama Quantum Mechanics  
Atheism Sexual Health **Ancient History**  
**Entrepreneurship** Languages Sport  
Paleontology Needlework Islam  
**Metaphysics** Investment Archaeology  
Parenting Statistics Criminology  
**Motivational**



# BELLS AND HOBBLES

By

E. J. Brady

1911

GEORGE ROBERTSON & CO.

Propy. Ltd.

MELBOURNE SYDNEY ADELAIDE

And BRISBANE

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Author's acknowledgments are due to the "Bulletin," "Sydney Mail," "Lone Hand," "Worker," and "Sunday Times," to which journals he is indebted for first publication of verses included in this volume . . . .



# CONTENTS

	Page.
BELLS AND HOBBLES .. . . . .	9
GREEN GRAVEL .. . . . .	13
OUTPOSTS .. . . . .	17
RIVERINE .. . . . .	21
COASTS OF DREAM .. . . . .	25
SNOWY RIVER .. . . . .	30
THE BLACK-SOIL TEAMS .. . . . .	34
RAIN IN THE WEST .. . . . .	36
DESERTED .. . . . .	39
DALY'S THRESHING .. . . . .	43
WHEN WATTS WENT OUT TO YUGILBAR .. . .	51
COLLAR AND YOKE .. . . . .	55
SETTLERS ON THE RISE .. . . . .	60
WHERE THE SALT BUSH GROWS .. . . . .	63
THE CALL OF LONDON .. . . . .	66
GERRINGONG .. . . . .	71
NORTHERN NIGHT .. . . . .	74
NORTHERN MORNING .. . . . .	77
WILD CATTLE .. . . . .	81
NIGHT IN THE BUSH .. . . . .	84
THE DAY THE MAILMAN COMES .. . . . .	89
THE BOOK .. . . . .	92
RED RIVER .. . . . .	97
O'MEARA'S WELL .. . . . .	102
* FAR AND WIDE .. . . . .	112

1490737

	Page.
RINGY RINGY ROSY .. . . .	115
SAME AS YOU .. . . .	117
THE FLAME TREE .. . . .	119
MORDIALLOC .. . . .	122
INCENTIVE .. . . .	124
DREAMERS, TOO .. . . .	128
DAUGHTER OF THE NORTH .. . . .	129
THE DEAD TREE .. . . .	133
KEIRA .. . . .	136
THE QUEST OF NO AVAIL .. . . .	139
WHITE ROSE .. . . .	140
YAMBA .. . . .	142
SOUTH OF GABO .. . . .	146
THE BEACH .. . . .	150
MAID OF GERRINGONG .. . . .	157
THE BUSHLAND CALL .. . . .	158
ON SAND .. . . .	160
THE DOERS .. . . .	162
COMRADES .. . . .	165
THE WESTERN ROAD .. . . .	167

## BELLS AND HOBBLER.

When our feet are in the stirrups,  
And our hands are to the reins,  
When the cities lie behind us  
And before us spread the plains,  
There's a song of night and morning  
That in minor music swells,  
'Tis the jangle of the hobbles  
And the jingle of the bells—  
Bells and hobbles,  
Hobbles and bells.

With a dull, metallic tinkle  
Of the muffled bobble-chain;  
And an echo, as we canter,  
Of the horse-bells in refrain,  
Weaves the wizard of the Westland  
Round our willing hearts his spells;  
Makes us helots of the hobbles;  
Makes us vassals of the bells.  
Bells and hobbles,  
Hobbles and bells.



*Will you miss me, miss me, Mary,  
In your suburb by the sea?  
Will you kiss me, kiss me, Katie  
When we meet at old Moree?*  
Sing the frail, unfaithful hobbles,  
And with cynic voice outswells  
From the Mitchell grass the answer  
Of the frail and faithless bells,  
Bells and hobbles,  
Hobbles and bells:

*Oh Love it is a funny thing;  
It makes a man a fool  
And teaches maids a lesson that  
They never learnt at school.*  
Thus the brazen tongue in chorus  
With the iron link dispels,  
In a rhythm gay, the gossip  
Of the hobbles and the bells,  
Bells and hobbles,  
Hobbles and bells.

With a bush brunette awaiting  
Who may fickle be, or fond,  
And the picture yet before him  
Of a plaintive city blonde,  
In a cynic cachinnation,  
So the sinful minor swells.  
Of the optimistic hobbles  
And the pessimistic bells,  
Bells and hobbles,  
Hobbles and bells.

But the good tobacco burneth,  
And a silver saltbush gleams,  
And 'tis cool beneath the shadows  
By the sluggish western streams ;  
And the sunlit ridges echo  
From their stony citadels  
To the jingle of the hobbles  
And the tinkle of the bells,  
Bells and hobbles,  
Hobbles and bells.

Let the farmer to his tillage  
All his skill and effort bring ;  
Let the blacksmith in the village  
Make his homely anvil ring ;  
Let the sounds of labor thunder  
Where the city worker dwells,  
But our songs are of the Bushland  
And the hobbles and the bells,  
Bells and hobbles,  
Hobbles and bells.

And our blankets shall be spreaded  
Over grasses dry and brown,  
By the yellow western waters  
When the sun is going down ;  
By the lonely soaks and gilgas  
And the clear artesian wells,  
And we'll listen in the gloaming  
To the hobbles and the bells.  
Bells and hobbles,  
Hobbles and bells.

Oh, the Sun shall rouse us early,  
As he swings into the blue;  
And we'll boil the old black billy  
While our world is wet with dew,  
While the working world a-hurry  
Seeks its stuffy office cells,  
We'll be slipping off the hobbles,  
And be strapping up the bells,  
Bells and hobbles,  
Hobbles and bells.

And the breezy tracks we travel  
From the sunrise to his set,  
They will aid us to remember,  
They will help us to forget;  
For the song of Night and Morning  
Shall be with us as it knells  
In the message of the hobbles  
And the answer of the bells.  
Bells and hobbles,  
Hobbles and bells.



## GREEN GRAVEL.

*Green gravel, green gravel, the grass is so green,  
The fairest young lady that ever I've seen.*

—*Children's Rhyme.*

Oh Molly, when the grass was green,  
When I was King and you were Queen;  
When underneath the gumtree's shade,  
As children of the Bush we played—  
“*Green gravel, oh, the grass is green,*”  
And I was King and you were Queen!

Oft, through the smoke of my cigar,  
I see the schoolhouse stand afar;  
And, through the mists of long-ago,  
The hats and bonnets in a row,  
While sits beside me on our stool  
My sweetheart of the old bush-school.

The years, with all their burdens, seem  
But mourning echoes of a dream;  
The cares of life, its loss and pain,  
Are yet unlearnt; again, again  
On buoyant feet I tread the cool  
Bush track that turns towards the school.

Though climbs the sun above the hill,  
The grass is hung with jewels still;  
And fresh as youth the morning glows  
With clover and with briar rose;  
While sweet as music falls the chime  
Of all the birds of summertime.

High overhead, where branches meet,  
Loud screams the busy parrakeet;  
The bright rosellas onward pass,  
With diving flight across the grass;  
The scarlet lories, two by two,  
Their rubies flash along the blue;

And Molly with her schoolbag stands  
Awaiting at the fallow lands,  
Where, seated on a log we'll share,  
In "bite for bite," the plundered pear;  
And dare, as comrades should, again  
For "coming late" the stinging cane.

"She loved me true!" "I loved her best."  
But one goes East and one goes West;  
And nevermore, amid thy brown  
And glossy hair, the bluebell crown  
In azure stars I'll weave and twine  
Beneath the sun, O sweetheart mine.

In after years, to manhood sprung,  
With step still light and heart yet young  
I came, unrecognised, alone,  
To read her name upon a stone  
That stood among the grasses green,  
For . . . Molly died at seventeen!

And though the air was sweet in chime  
Of all the bells of summertime;  
And though the briar roses red  
Their well-remembered fragrance shed,  
I only saw, I only knew,  
That at her feet the bluebells grew;

Like angels' eyes to me they shone,  
With some kind knowledge of their own,  
Of other lives, in other spheres,  
That haply lie beyond the tears  
And all the tragic grief and mirth  
Of this fantasia of earth.

Their slender stems, as innocent  
As childhood's love, above her bent;  
And as the murmur of the school  
Still drifted o'er the paddocks cool,  
They swayed and shook from out their blue  
Pathetic eyes the tears of dew.



All on a sudden rose the chime  
Of all the bells of summertime;  
And once again, upon my ear,  
I heard a chorus rising clear:  
*"Green gravel, oh, the grass is green,  
The fairest lady that I've seen."*

Had I but dreamed? The years between  
Seemed then as they had never been.  
I, half-expectant, turned to see  
If by the hills she waited me.  
Alas, 'twas but, at morning play,  
The children of another day.

Long, long ago her lampless Flame  
Re-found the realm from whence it came;  
And still my feeble light is whirled  
And eddied with the living world.  
Green gravel, oh, the grass *is* green.  
But . . . Molly died at seventeen!

## OUTPOSTS.

Beyond the noisy railway; outside the postal roads,  
Where swing no swaying coaches, no coaster wharfs her  
loads;

Where brood dark-gullied ranges, where brown plains  
meet the sky—

In scrub and bush and jungle the lone bush Outposts  
lie.

The vanguard lags behind them; the rearguard rests at  
ease;

The city-fed battalion doth bivouac in peace;  
But constant is *their* vigil, their duty long and keen  
Who keep the distant Outposts through fatted years and  
lean.

They read no current cables; no inky herald brings  
To them each morning early the news of men and things.  
The policies of nations; the world, both grave and gay,  
Is but a formless shadow—an echo far away.

They face the raging summer and pray a cooling  
change—

Dust-reddened in the desert; fire-haunted on the range:  
They nurse the stock to water, fly-pestered through the  
haze

And heat and desolation of dry, drought-devilled days.

They toil through trying winters, foregoing present needs,  
For misty future chances—for tools, or stock, or seeds.  
They walk in homely raiment; coarse fare the cupboard  
fills

Of those who keep the Outposts along the plains and  
hills.

Blazed tracks through forests gloomy—steep, stony trails  
they know;

By flooded fords and marshes, and gullies white with  
snow,

The thunder on the hillside, the loud tornado's flight;  
Bruised flesh and strong limbs shattered, and sickness  
in the night.

Aye, doubts and dreads uncertain, child-bearings, fevers,  
chills,

Long, sleepless nights of watching, all human griefs and  
ills,

Are theirs to bear and battle when hard the burdens  
press,

Of solitary trouble and pain in loneliness.

Their dead lie buried near them; the loved they might  
not save,

A panel and a paling to mark the quiet grave,  
White stars their tapers burning, the wind among the  
trees

To sing above the sleepers its soft bush melodies.



The creaking of the saddles, the stockwhips sounding  
clear

And gaily in the morning, the gallant Outposts hear ;  
The bell-birds in the bloodwoods, or, from the pale  
lagoon,

Green frogs in rain-time croaking hoarse greetings to the  
moon.

Great pictures spread before them ; the sky's unfathomed  
arch ;

Dark clouds like feudal ramparts, white clouds upon the  
march,

Red mornings on the mountain, red sunsets o'er the  
plain,

The moonlit river windings, the paddocks wet with rain ;

The Canvas of Creation, whose thousand tints and shades  
On endless prairies linger and dwell in everglades,  
With all its form and colour, its desert and its dew—  
While pass the changing seasons—is ever theirs to view.

Bare, ring-barked patches standing like white bones far  
away ;

Bark walls and roofs that mirage to castles 'neath the  
play

Of mocking suns down-pouring their heat-waves o'er the  
land ;

The flats below the gullies, the sweet soaks in the sand—

These mark in turn the Outposts. By lonesome trail and  
track

Ye may, so suited, seek them by Far and Farthest Back.  
Warm hearts will give ye greeting, strong hands will  
freely grasp

Your hands in hearty welcome with honest, friendly clasp.

Through sunshine and through starshine, through failure  
and success,

In fair and flowing seasons, in seasons of distress;  
Beyond the touch of culture, without the ways of ease,  
These soldiers of the Outposts their vigils never cease.

Lank heroes clothed in moleskin, brown heroines in  
print;

Although you gain no medals nor in the social mint  
Are stamped with high approval, not all that silken crew  
Of snobs and city loafers can boast the worth of you.

Ye have your faults and failings; the pressure of your  
need

Forbids angelic sweetness and bars the saintly breed;  
But ye are *Men* and *Women* and fit and worthy peers  
Of them who hold the Outposts through all the fight-  
ing years.

## RIVERINE.

Its level lands are spread away  
To meet the setting sun ;  
Fierce summers o'er them scorch and slay  
The grass blades, one by one ;  
Long, wicked droughts have dried their breasts,  
These virgin lands and clean ;  
But still a fertile promise rests  
Upon the Riverine,  
The fecund Riverine.  
It rises, and its worth attests  
The Phoenix Riverine.

It breeds no wasters on its lands—  
The grim, defiant plains  
Are held by strong Australian hands  
That firmly grasp the reins ;  
Wild horsemen these, who race and wheel  
The clustered gums between ;  
They keep the stirrup to the heel,  
Way down in Riverine,  
Far out in Riverine ;  
Undaunted souls and hearts of steel,  
Are found in Riverine.

No green palms in the sunlight sway ;  
Nor doth the wild, red rose,  
In dewy fragrance to the Day  
Ucultured charms disclose :  
But here and there a garden smiles ;  
And when the Spring falls green,  
She puts her feet a thousand miles  
Across the Riverine,  
Along the Riverine.  
She woos, with Amazonian wiles,  
Her Lord the Riverine !

Then gluttoned ewes beside their lambs  
Know well the season's "good."  
To billabongs and creeks and dams  
Flocks down a feathered brood ;  
Unto a rotund beast hath grown  
The packhorse lank and lean ;  
The squatter comes unto his own  
Along the Riverine,  
Across the Riverine.  
The stock are fat and sleek and blown  
Throughout the Riverine.

A wool-barge, in her steamer's track,  
Swings slowly round the bends ;  
Her hawser may not fitly slack  
Until the journey ends.  
The flood is over reef and sand,  
The channel's wide and clean ;



There's water in the rivers, and  
    There's joy in Riverine,  
    Hurrah for Riverine!  
The shearer and the steamboat hand  
    Find work thro' Riverine.

White snows upon Monaro die  
    Beneath October suns ;  
Warm tropic rains in cowals lie  
    Along far Queensland runs ;  
The 'Bidgee and the Lachlan swell  
    Their crumbling banks between—  
They'll have a record clip to tell  
    This year in Riverine,  
    For once in Riverine.  
They're pulling round ; they're doing well  
    At last, in Riverine.

I walk dull streets ; and in mine ear  
    A city's tumult rings ;  
But through my heart a river clear  
    Beyond the ranges sings,  
And visions of the plains come down  
    The by-ways drab, unclean.  
I see the trackless prairies brown  
    Of dear old Riverine.  
    God bless the Riverine!  
I would that I might shed the town  
    For you, old Riverine!

There's strength and effort in the West,  
There's mateship staunch and true;  
(And, sweetheart of my one-time quest,  
'Twas there I courted you!)

A blight be on these city ways!  
The wastrel and the quean  
Can find no place where Manhood lays  
Its grip on Riverine,  
Its hand on Riverine.

No "pocket Venus" loud displays  
Her charms in Riverine.

The chiming horse-bells clink and ring  
From Bourke to Tocumwall!  
Around their fires the drovers sing,  
The old bush Voices call.

And I must rise and get me gone  
To ease my longings keen;  
I'll saddle up and journey on  
Across the Riverine,  
And down the Riverine.

I'm sure of welcome warm from One  
Who waits in Riverine.

## COASTS OF DREAM.

The window of my sick room fronts  
A screw-tormented bay,  
Where porcine Commerce squeals and grunts,  
And wallows day by day.

Fat, vulgar tramps, in moving cloud  
Of smoke, encircled round,  
With bull-voiced sirens bellow loud  
For pilots—outward bound.

Gay liners, sleek with paint and brass,  
Like youths in evening-dress,  
Between the looming headlands pass  
In patent haughtiness.

The lusts of travel, like a net,  
My sick-bed fancies snare;  
My thoughts on outward currents set  
To glories elsewhere.

The liner's but a huge hotel;  
She holds no charm for me;  
My Soul demands the heave and swell  
Of decks that lip the Sea.

I lie and muse a while, and so,  
Like pictures in a dream,  
Australian coasts I love and know  
Through mist and sunburst gleam.

Palm-clad and fringed by sleepy hills,  
With snuggled towns between,  
Where aye the horn of Plenty fills,  
The Illawarra green

Throws out her curving arms of sand;  
From garden slopes, recline  
She calls, a Queen of Fairyland,  
A Bride of fern and vine.

'Twas here in Youth's deep-buried day,  
With all the World a song,  
Beside me on the headland lay  
My maid of Gerringong.

So blue were then the seas and skies,  
So red the heart of Spring,  
So gay the painted butterflies,  
And swallows all a-wing!

(Oh take, dear heart, the golden bowl,  
And drink while yet you may.  
Time's river will not backward roll,  
Nor Youth nor Love delay!)



My Memory Ship is sailing slow—  
A magic coast it seems,  
Where I have idled to and fro,  
And dreamed my idle dreams. . . .

Good, fighting, red fat schnapper strain  
The dripping lines to-day  
Where lately was the cow-whale slain  
And towed to Twofold Bay.

On Mallacoota pipes the swan,  
And calls the mating teal,  
And black-finned mullet shoals dart on  
Before the coming keel.

Come South'ard where the lobsters spawn  
In green Cape Conran weed!  
Come South and watch, on seas of Dawn,  
The whale calf play and feed!

The Gippsland Lakes are deep and wide,  
The Gippsland trees are tall;  
And on the long, lone beach the tide  
For ninety miles doth call.

But south of "Wilson's" rolls the swell  
Of greyer, colder seas;  
And fronting for'ard you may smell  
A sharp Antarctic breeze.

I close my eyes, and lo! the room  
Is heavy with the scent  
Of lemon and magnolia bloom,  
And odors orient.

Now sweet as lovers' words there falls—  
And softly as the leaf,  
A hymn of Capricorn that calls  
The sunlight o'er the Reef.

Cape Byron lifts his drowsy head;  
The Yamba lights burn low;  
And gaily grows the morning red  
Along Don Dorriggo.

With tropic dews are wet the tall,  
Green fields of cane and corn;  
The jack snipe and the ibis call  
A welcome to the Morn.

From brush and scrub and wide lagoons,  
From reed beds, swamps, and brakes,  
On shoreward slopes and seaward dunes  
The fertile North awakes.

This young sultana from her bed  
Of sandal, pearl, and gold,  
Steps forth to meet the Day with tread  
Imperious and bold.

The mango and guava send  
A fruity fragrance forth;  
A hundred scents, commingled, blend  
The attar of the North.

Who breathes its subtleness a time,  
Shall walk divorced from peace;  
And pine in ev'ry alien clime  
Until his life days cease. . . .

Alas! a lotos-eater, I  
Its opiate sweetness knew,  
And to my sickroom, as I lie,  
It steals the window through.

Aye! surely as all flesh is grass,  
The far lands fairer seem,  
So roving hearts for e'er must pass  
Adown the Coasts of Dream.

## SNOWY RIVER.

The proud hills' peerless daughter,  
A-singing as she goes  
The natal songs they taught her,  
Old Kosciusko knows  
She bears the Great Salt Water  
His message from the snows.

Where, piled in high disorder,  
Monaro's mountains rise,  
She puts her house in order  
And says her first good-byes;  
Then, timid, to the Border  
She turns expectant eyes.

By lichen-covered granite,  
And boulders, waterworn  
In ages when the Planet  
By primal storms was torn,  
When all the winds that fan it  
In hurricanes were born;



Through gullies dark where, whitely,  
The bones of lost men lie,  
And evil voices nightly  
Like tortured spirits cry,  
This pilgrim River, lightly,  
Slips, hushed and silent, by.

But when, anon, the plover  
To haunts more open hies,  
And to his loyal lover  
The painted parrot flies—  
An opal flashing over  
Deep, turquoise picture-skies—

Along the sedgy reaches ,  
By myrtles overhung,  
Where far the flood-made beaches  
Their pebbled freight have flung,  
To all the Bush she teaches  
The songs Monaro's sung.

She takes, for her adorning,  
All glories that she needs—  
The jewels of the Morning  
To deck her water meads ;  
The stars of Night suborning  
To diamond her reeds.

Unwed by any Doria  
Of rough Australian drought,  
She sings her pagan Gloria;  
And, sweeping gaily South,  
She stoops to kiss Victoria  
Upon awaiting mouth.

Wild Gippsland's forest altars,  
Titanic, sombre, grand,  
Re-echo to her psalters,  
Poured out o'er rock and sand;  
And no rude range that falters  
The tribute of his hand.

Aye, creek and spring and fountain  
Unto her leap and roll;  
Each vassal hill or mountain  
Pours down its liquid soul,  
To swell the grand amount in  
Her widely-gathered toll.

And, so with stories laden  
Of Bushland, Day and Night,  
She comes, a royal maiden  
Hellenic, in delight,  
To find her long-sought Aidenn  
Below the Marlo light.

From Buchan's white cliffs sweeping  
    She treads her homeward way;  
By lone selections sleeping  
    In stillness, far away;  
By Orbost farm lands, keeping  
    Star-vigil for the day.

She hears afar the calling  
    Of her high lord the Sea;  
She hears the strong surge falling,  
    World-old, unceasingly,  
And all the Voice entralling  
    Of Love and Mystery.

Then, with the quick, glad sobbing  
    Of some long-willing Bride—  
Her Sea-Love rudely robbing  
    The last white robe of pride—  
She throws her warm heart, throbbing,  
    On his triumphant tide.

## THE BLACK-SOIL TEAMS.

For God hath made the Black-soil; and spread it near  
and far,

From down the sweeping Namoi bends, away to Talbra-  
gar:

Its richness no man questions, its wealth no man denies,  
But Sheol 'tis in rain time; and Tophet when it dries.

The drought hath cracked and torn it; the rain hath  
lent it seams.

God help the Black-soil teamster! God help the Black-  
soil teams!

God grace the toiling teamster! God give him strength  
and hope!

Spare swingle-bars and traces, spare curses, chains and  
rope!

A-ploughing down the gilgas—the mud as close as glue—  
A-plunging past the myall, the squatter's wool goes  
through!

A-plunging through the gilgas, a-ploughing up the track,  
With four and twenty horses, the squatter's stores come  
back.

New saddles for the stockmen, new dresses for the girls—  
And round the straining leader the wicked whipthong  
curls.

Their flanks are all a-lather, the black mud axle-high,  
But trust the Black-soil teamster; he'll take her through  
or die.



Who sees the trace-chains snapping, who sees the harness  
fly,  
May kneel and pray for weather; may kneel and ask  
it dry.  
But when the starved team staggers across a sun-scorched  
plain,  
He'll change his plea, mayhappen and kneel and pray for  
rain.

But rain or draught, whatever, all flood or dry reverse,  
The teamster's duty's patent—Pull out, pull through and  
curse.  
Ay, pull her down the rivers: drag through the clinging  
loam,  
Then turn-about, my brother, curse hard, and crawl her  
home!

God grant him grace hereafter; of grace, aye hath he  
dearth,—  
Though fearing no hereafter—whose Hell is all on Earth.  
Sun-tanned, mud-caked and hairy; morose and most pro-  
fane,  
God grace the Lean Lost Legion who plod the Black-soil  
plain!

## RAIN IN THE WEST.

The "second class" is gay to-night,  
As down the gleaming rail  
She thunders by, a line of light,  
The roaring Western Mail.

The "first" enjoys a fresh cigar,—  
Contented by the glass,  
He sees the rainwet plains afar  
In misty shadows pass.

Within the cab two figures peer  
A clouded night and black;  
The shadow of the Engineer  
Keeps dancing on the track.

But gladly do these worthies meet  
The damp indriven wind;  
They know its welcome glint is sweet  
To those who ride behind.

The white steam hisses her delight.  
The brake alone complains,  
For extra work is his to-night  
Along the Western plains.

A settler waves, in 'joy of heart,  
His ancient, dripping hat,  
His huddled stock in terror start  
Across the darkened flat.

*He's* done at last with starving sheep  
And flies, and heat, and dust,—  
To-night, a-weary, let him sleep,  
The sound sleep of the just.

Now every publican to Bourke  
And every sinner too,  
To-morrow surely will not shirk  
The strong potato brew.

The squatter in his pride and glee  
Will shout all hands for joy,  
And thro' the huts will echo free  
"The Wild Colonial Boy."

What cares the drover now where dim  
And sodden fails his fire?  
This steady downpour is to him  
A boon of long desire.

By next week-end a dreary waste  
Will all be green and lush;  
His soul again will joyful taste  
The manna of the Bush.

For grass and water make the bliss,  
His fancy most regards.  
And there's a waiting girl to kiss  
Behind the trucking yards.

The operator like a horse  
Must graft the morrow day,  
To carry, in the tongue of Morse,  
The rapid wires away.

The coming hours with toil are fraught;  
There's lots of graft to do:—  
He would not worry if he got  
A yard of rain, or two.

Aye, no-one growls and no-one grieves,  
Tho' tracks be seas of mud,  
And one prophetic wight believes  
"The thing will end in flood."

There's joy on every flat and bend;  
The blessed, timely rains,  
To care and worry put an end,  
Across the patient plains.

For now a stricken land a-curst,  
Becomes an Eden blest;  
They've done with hunger, heat, and thirst—  
"*'Tis raining in the West.*"

## DESERTED.

No welcome smoke uprearing  
Blue spirals in the sun,  
No axes down the clearing  
Announce a day begun.  
The noontide shadows find it  
In wearing silence still;  
Dark fall at eve behind it  
The shadows of the hill.

A rosebush, vainly seeking  
Some presence evermore,  
Has clambered round the creaking,  
Half-opened, low front door:  
And from the straggling creepers  
The falling dew appears  
To mourn departed keepers  
With ever-constant tears.

Like fleshless bones unburied,  
Grey sundered trunks lie low,  
Their dead leaves swept and harried  
By sere winds to and fro.  
Its roof-bark slipped and rotten  
'Mid weeds and fallow lands,  
Unkempt, decayed, forgotten,  
The lone selection stands.



Yet here were hopes, ambitions,  
And efforts freely shed,  
To win from harsh conditions  
A household meed of bread.  
Here love and labor mated ;  
Here children's laughter rang ;  
And in dead days undated  
A Woman worked and sang.

Here winter firelight brightened  
Rough walls and fixtures rude ;  
And cares increased, or lightened,  
With summer's wayward mood ;  
Here Bushland charm and glory—  
The wealth of wood and sky—  
Brought pictures, song and story  
To human ear and eye.

The Spring her bountry showered,  
On paddocks fresh with rain ;  
The climbing rose-bush flowered  
Across the window pane.  
Glad days with wings extended  
In blue procession sped ;  
Glad nights came clear and splendid  
With cloudless stars o'erhead.

But here Misfortune tarried  
Amid the ricks and sheaves,  
Until their hopes were harried  
And driven like the leaves ;

They fought their fight ill-fated  
In that heroic past,  
With courage unabated  
Unto the bitter last.

Grim Failure for their guerdon,  
Who might have known success,  
They bore the heavy burden  
Of drought and red distress;  
They fared as many others,—  
The brave defeated band,  
Of Southern sires and mothers  
Who pioneered the land.

No more, by morn or noontime,  
Here Joy and Sorrow walk.  
No more a longed-for boontime  
With ripe grain bends the stalk.  
No more with songs of Labor  
The lonely hills resound;  
The winds with flute and tabor  
Their forest marches sound.

When now the veil asunder  
Of Night is loudly torn,  
Amid a city's thunder  
They meet a city morn.  
In dreams they hear it calling,  
Their Bushland fresh with dew;  
They see cloud-shadows falling  
Along the hills of blue.

And clear in recollection,  
And fair in Fancy's eyes  
Outstands the old selection  
Beneath the morning skies;  
While in their hearts, half-broken,  
The restless mem'ries roam  
In treasured thought and token  
Of this deserted home.

## DALY'S THRESHING.

It was "threshing" down at Daly's, and the bearded bush-  
men rode  
Over mountain gorge and gully, where the creeks, clear-  
watered, flowed :  
From the slopes, and through the ranges, past the broad'n-  
ing river bends,  
Round the spurs and o'er the flat-lands came the host of  
Daly's friends ;  
Came to reap the yellow harvest, waving in the summer  
sun ;  
Came to dance with Daly's daughter 'neath the moon  
when day was done.

As the long day's labor ended, and the horses munched  
their feed,  
Far was borne upon the breezes faint aroma of the  
"weed,"  
Sound of song and year-old waltzes, new enough for  
rustic feet,  
When the honest hearts above them with the joy of living  
beat.  
On the hard earth floor together, youth and maiden,  
flushed and gay,  
To the gasping concertina danced those charmed hours  
away.

'Mid the band of blushing beauty Mary Daly yet I see,  
Brown, bewitching, soft, blithe-hearted, laughing rogu-  
ishly.

There are girls on Northern moorlands, there are dark-  
browed angels where

Spain's blue heaven spans the radiance of a radiant land  
and fair.

There are houris in the harems of proud sultans in the  
East

On whose classic forms and features long the eye of Art  
might feast,

But they thought that Daly's daughter, straight, fresh-  
moulded, strong and tall,

'Mid the world of wond'rous women, far the fairest of  
them all.

You may dwell among the shadows in the valley of the  
pen ;

You may fight the Fight of Living in the pits with other  
men ;

You may feel the Law's injustice, or the hatred of your  
kind ;

You may rail at social errors or beliefs untrue and blind ;

You may be a mighty genius or a man of common clay,

But for one dear, foolish woman you would sell your  
soul away.

So for Mary, roguish Mary, with her dazzling eyes and  
hair,

Was it strange to find *him* paying humble court among  
them there?



He, the son of Daly's neighbor, Raymond Phair, the  
bronzed and strong,  
Pride of all the fearless horsemen, and the hero of my  
song.  
Though the Phairs and Dalys quarrelled in the very early  
days,  
Still the Spring had brought its moisture and the sun had  
lent his rays,  
And their crops had grown and ripened, and their herds  
had multiplied  
Till their rural reputation spread o'er all the countryside.

But if Phair and Daly hated with a hate as sternly set  
As a Montague might cherish for a haughty Capulet,  
There was still no human reason, as these contradictions  
go,  
Why our Austral Julietta should not love her Romeo.

Nearly done was Daly's threshing, as the passing trav'ller  
saw  
Bags of grain and heaps of huskings, stacks of new, sweet-  
smelling straw ;  
Saw the tired, slow, patient horses, at the mill since early  
morn,  
In the dusk of evening treading out the last of Daly's  
corn.

Luck had smiled upon the harvest, higher grew the heaps  
of grain,  
Till his barns were overflowing, and his store-rooms filled  
amain,  
And the heart of William Daly filled and fluttered in  
his breast,  
As he smiled towards the sunset that lay smiling in the  
west,  
Then he thought of pretty Mary, and a great round oath  
swore he,  
That the child of his dead 'Liza should a rich-wed lady  
be.

So they "finished" down at Daly's, and they drank with  
right good will  
"To the health of Daly's daughter and the wealth of bluff  
old Bill."  
And when o'er the frowning mountain rose the moon her  
silver light,  
Once again the girls and fellows fell to dancing with  
delight.  
Once again from out the shadows, Raymond Phair, the  
bronzed and strong,  
Came to clasp the waist of Mary, and to lead her through  
the throng.

Hard the face of William Daly, stern the voice of "bluff  
old Bill"—

Some sharp tongue had done the mischief, some kind  
friend had whispered ill.—

*"Get your horse and leave my place, sir, and remember  
as you do,*

*If you pay another visit I will put the dogs on you."*

Then to trembling, tearful Mary: "Go inside and dry  
your eyes,

Till I've seen him crossing safely over there beyond the  
rise."

That was all they heard from Daly in the sudden silence  
there,

As he stood before his daughter and the son of Amos  
Phair.

"Don't be rude and cruel father."—Raymond blessed  
her gentle voice,

And his heart leapt up and told him, *"Yes, she loves you,  
now rejoice!"*

To her ear he bent and whispered, "Be at Leland's bridge  
by nine

If you love me, Mary Daly, if you dare, dear girl, be  
mine."

Then to Daly bowed young Raymond, as some olden  
cavalier,

Whom those brown and bearded bushmen felt impelled,  
man-like, to cheer.

"Sir," said he, "I beg your pardon, though you be my father's foe;

I'd forget the feud between us, will you shake, or must I go?"

"Shure 'tis Christmas Eve, now, Daly, can't you let the matther end?

Take the hand that's held in friendship," muttered some well-meaning friend.

But the fire of Celtic hatred glowed and flashed in Daly's eye,

"Let a Phair have Daly's daughter? And a Sassenach? Not I."

One quick clasp of fervid fingers, one swift look that lit the skies,

One faint smile from Mary Daly, one glad glimpse of tear-wet eyes;

Then to mount with Centaur motion, full of strength, and life, and grace,

Pull the rein and straighten stirrup, dash away from Daly's place,

Round the bend by Brown's and Baker's, out across the mountain spur;

With a wild exultant feeling, born of Love, and Hope, and *her*.

They were dancing still at Daly's, making love beneath the trees—

For the course of youth and pleasure runs in spite of things like these—

But the Queen of all the revel with the rest had ceased to glide,

And the girls and fellows whispered, "she will cry it out inside;"

So they heard no woman's footstep to the stockyard swiftly pass,

O'er the sleeping dandelions and the dewy, scented grass!

To her saddle vaulting lightly, underneath that melting sky,

Mary bade her father's homestead just one quiet, long, good-bye.

Aye, 'twas hard to disobey him, he the parent old and gray,

Like a thief of fond affection, thus to run by night away.

Then across her soul went singing, in a music half divine,

*"If you love me, Mary Daly, if you dare, dear girl, be mine."*

Down the road by Wilson's paddock, up again by Brown's big hill,

She has left the farm behind her, let them follow if they will;

They may saddle up at Daly's, they may rant and they may ride,

But before her father finds her she shall be bold Raymond's bride.

Round the bend by Brown's and Baker's, out across the mountain ridge,

Rides the brave Blue Mountain maiden to her tryst at Leland's bridge.



So it chanced that Daly's threshing, as such  
will do,  
Brought romance among the mountains, an  
bliss for two;  
And the house of Phair and Daly ceased to  
long ago;  
And our Austral Julietta had her own dear

WHEN WATTS WENT OUT TO YUGILBAR.

The summer days, through heat and haze,  
Had browned the meadow lands,  
And in its flow sang soft and and low  
The river on its sands—  
The river wide that once in pride  
Poured out its high commands.

And so we went, on peace intent,  
That golden Eastertide,  
With ample store of "providore,"  
And liquid stock beside;  
And, trotting free, 'twas good to see  
The pack-horse in his stride.

God gave us hills to cure our ills;  
And where the river rolls  
His splendid length of mountain strength  
Along the pebbled shoals,  
Long leagues from town, we sat us down  
To rest our weary souls.

The dweller in the streets, whose thin,  
White ghosts of pleasures pall—  
He little deems what halcyon dreams,  
What visions fair and tall,  
From leaf and vine with songs divine,  
In Bushland shadows call.

The spoil hard won by rod and gun,  
Abroad in Nature's ways;  
The kind surcease from toil, and peace  
Beside the camp fire's blaze;  
The Dawn's young rose, the Evening's close,  
Made perfect all our days.

Then in the late, dim dusk my mate  
(As Orpheus long ago)  
The strings would sweep and clear and deep,  
In joy—perchance in woe—  
Love, Peace and War—all things that are  
Fell out beneath the bow.

I've heard the grand massed fun'ral band  
Behind a warrior's pall,  
In weird notes roll through heart and soul  
The slow "Dead March in Saul;"  
In youth's wild days The Marseillaise  
To arms all peoples call;

But when I dream by slope and stream,  
Where upland glories are;  
Or, if my feet tread alien street  
In alien lands afar,  
Still will I hold those hours of gold  
'Way out on Yugalbar.

First night went by; but, bearded, shy,  
Unskilled of tongue or pen;  
Next night from camp, a starlit tramp,  
They came, rough miner men.  
The fiddler *knew*, and slyly drew  
The music of their ken.

My Bushland fair, let fools declare  
Thee barren of sweet things;  
Deep in thy heart there throbs apart  
A harp of golden strings;  
And to its chords, in wondrous words,  
A wooing siren sings.

The dark range o'er, with wondrous store  
Of silver from the moon  
Was slowly filled, while ached and thrilled  
Those kind bush hearts in tune  
To Love and War—all things that are  
Within the player's boon.

Of "Home, Sweet Home" 'neath star-spread dome,  
The dark hills heard the story;  
"St. Patrick's Day" once more away  
The wild Celt called to glory;  
Or sweet and sad the raw Scots lad  
Dreamed of his "Annie Laurie."

Brave, simple souls ; as backward rolls  
Time's curtain, from afar  
That scene I dream of hill and stream  
'Neath cloudless moon and star ;  
In fancy hear the echoes clear—  
'Way out on Yugalbar.

And, Watts, when you are passing through  
That Vale the preachers tell,  
Just lift your bow and *he* will know  
The song-lord Israfel.  
And loud and clear, "Musicians here!"  
He'll cry—and 'twill be well.



## COLLAR AND YOKE.

"'Twas 'bullicks' made the country,"  
The man from Jindabayne,  
Red-whiskered, lean and hairy,  
Asserted once again.

The chap from Rocky River,  
Squint-eyed and squat and strong—  
One eye upon the ridge pole  
And one upon the throng;

Declaimed with frantic gestures  
His views to reinforce—  
"It wasn't blanky bullicks,  
It *was* the blanky 'orse."

The day was hot and dusty  
The roads were tough and dry,  
A brazen sun went blazing  
Across a copper sky.

They'd met with friendly greeting  
At noontide near the Bend,  
But now the day unheeded  
Was burning to an end.

While yet, within the shanty,  
Those loyal drivers woke  
Loud echoes with the merits  
Of collar, or of yoke.

The argument from heated  
Grew to a yell in course  
Confused, of "bullicks, bullicks,"  
And "'Orse, and 'orse, and 'orse."

Now as of old Knights errant  
Upon the highways met  
Would throw the gage of combat,  
And straight to business get,

To prove the charms of Isold  
'Gainst those of Guinevere,  
Those teamsters just at sunset  
Abandoned each his beer,

And on the dusty roadway—  
By partisans about  
Ringed fairly and encouraged —  
Began to fight it out.

The man from Rocky River  
A Burns in sooth was he,  
In all but skill and training  
And build and hittery.

A Johnson—lacking color  
Strength, stamina and brain  
And scientific teaching—  
The man from Jindabayne.

The betting on the combat  
Was even; for of course  
One crowd was laying "bullicks,"  
The other backing "'orse."

Oh, 'twas a famous battle:  
Still, in their camps at night  
They tell along the ranges  
The story of that fight.

So even were they mated,  
So blessed, with lack of skill,  
They struck, and missed and stumbled  
Through forty rounds until

The shanty keeper, acting  
As arbiter of law  
Relating to the combat,  
Declared the fight a draw.

Each combatant exhausted  
Prone lying, battered, hoarse,  
Could only glare defiance  
And whisper "*Bullicks!*"—"'*Orse!*'"

Nor could they come to corners,  
But squatted vis-a-vis  
Supine, but still unconquered  
Before the referee.

And when—with inward wisdom  
Born of the life he led—  
*He* saw from indications  
That fight about to spread,

He cried, "This 'ere decision  
Is fair an' just an' right,  
You've 'eard the blanky barney  
You've seen the blanky fight.

Now, some's for Rocky River,  
An' some's for Jindabayne,  
An' some's for 'oof an' 'orns 'ere,  
An' some's for 'oof an' mane.

Since ever I remember,  
This argument between  
The Bullockys and Teamsters  
On all the roads has been.

Now 'ere, I'm bound to settle  
Disputes as Referee,  
The fight 'as simply ended,  
A draw, as you kin see."

A light of inspiration  
Flashed o'er his features coarse—  
*"Which shows what makes the country is  
The bullick, AND the 'orse!"*

Now this was sound in logic,  
In judgment, and in law,  
They called off all the wagers,  
Declared the fight a draw;

And o'er replenished glasses,  
The wreck from Jindabayne,  
The ruin from the River,  
Shook hands in peace again.

## SETTLERS ON THE RISE.

The monarch hills above it  
Are crowned by sombre trees,  
That billow to the skyline  
Like dark, Titanic seas.

At eventime, the shadow  
Of one great giant lies  
Across a pleasant homestead  
That stands upon the rise.

Here came—to wage with Nature,  
The old uncertain strife—  
A stalwart, young selector  
And his new-wedded wife.

That low-roofed, three-roomed shanty  
Of slabs and bark and scrim,  
Long years ago, she whispered,  
A palace was—with *him*.

Five miles from any neighbor,  
Full forty from the town—  
And so our lion-hearted  
Bush exiles “settle down.”



With no applause to cheer them,  
No banquets and no band,  
Their days are yet heroic  
With effort through the land.

They wear no tailored raiment,  
These bush-folk hard and brown;  
They know not city dainties,  
Nor luxuries of town.

Hard beef and heavy damper,  
And suet-strengthened dough,  
And "spuds" boiled in their jackets  
Full well and oft they know.

Miladi's sleeping soundly,  
Milord in slumber lies,  
When he and she are toiling  
At sun-up on the rise.

Their acres, won in travail  
For tilth, are trebly dear;  
The laughter of their children  
Is sweet and good to hear.

The palinged garden, bearing  
Its kitchen growth in rows,  
The earthen stoop, bark-shaded,  
Whereon a creeper grows;

The dog-leg fences, marking  
Each year, another field,  
A hope of better seasons,  
And still a greater yield—

The spring rains softly falling;  
The stainless Southern skies,  
Hold golden compensation  
For dwellers on the rise.

Long years from now may find them  
Still hoping, brave, and fond,  
Still wooing fickle Fortune;  
Still looking out—beyond.

Tall, stalwart sons beside them;  
Strong daughters in their 'teens,  
The simple household comforts  
That come with ways and means.

No great, heroic ending,  
No palace and no prize;  
But rest and recollection  
At sunset on the rise.

And courage on *his* face is,  
And love is in *her* eyes—  
Some city folks might envy  
The dwellers on the rise.

## WHERE THE SALT BUSH GROWS.

I am sitting in a garden, by a harbor prospect fair,  
And a green world glows around me into distance ev'ry-  
where ;

And the petals fall in showers  
Like a snowstorm of dead flowers,  
Where a young Spring trips the orchards with the south  
wind in her hair.

Here glad buttercups unfold burnished cups of floral  
gold ;

To the nectars of the morning, and the pine trees, tall  
and old,

Lift their heads to greet September—  
Like knights errant, who remember  
Courts and tournaments of Nature, in the ancient years  
untold.

Now the florists' windows gleaming are bedecked with  
spoil of Spring,

Now the maiden waiteth blushing for a lover—and a  
ring.

Now the matron, laughing gaily,  
Treads her path of pleasure daily,  
While our city sparrows twitter, and our caged canaries  
sing.

But a rude, uncultured longing through my inward fancy  
flows ;

I am restless and uneasy ; far too well my spirit knows

That the wizard West is calling,

With a siren voice enthralling,

From her free, unpastured places, where the stunted salt-  
bush grows !

From her plains, outspreading lonely under cloudless  
skies away,

Comes a summons to my garden by the hill-surrounded  
bay :

“Come, oh come again, my rover ;

Come, oh come again, my lover ;

Come out and see the glory and the grandeur of the day.”

“Will your city give nepenthe?” cries the spirit of the  
West—

“Will its markets fill the chalice of the longings in your  
breast?

Is the traffic in its thunder

Like that still and quiet wonder

Of the moon above the mulga where the weary riders  
rest?”

Then my garden in the suburbs grows as narrow as a tomb,

Then the woof and warp of Commerce on its ever-whirling loom,

Like a web of evil fairies,

Like a garment of despair is,

Like a cerement swiftly woven by the cogs and wheels of Doom.

We can never rest in cities, as our wise Bush Mother knows ;

Let the merchant to his markets where the golden current flows ;

But the bushman's feet must wander

In the open over yonder,

Where old myall droops his branches and the silver salt-bush grows.

Not in crowded squares or highways ; not in terraces in rows,

Not in tiled suburban cages shall our life days surely close,

When the old Bush voices woo us,

When the West-land whispers to us,

From her free and trackless places where the silver salt-bush grows.

## THE CALL OF LONDON.

I have heard the Call of London,  
Yea, the savor rising sweet  
Of its fleshpots, down in Fleet-street  
When success is at your feet.

Now the mail hath brought a missive,  
And its writer's pen of grace  
Bids me hasten to the struggle  
Ere I'm "distanced in the race."

"There's a wider field in Britain,  
Or in Boston or New York;  
Better chances for your effort,  
Better payment for your work.

"Sell your socks and sling Australia  
There is nothing in the game.  
*I* am doing well in London,  
*You* can surely do the same.

"Look at other scribes and artists—  
All the clever chaps we know,  
Who have left their blithered country,  
Where they never got a show!



"Raise the money for a passage,  
Let Australia go to—Hay."  
So he puts the matter to me  
From his fleshpot far away.

As I wrestle with temptation  
On this clear October morn,  
I can hear the bell-birds chiming  
Through the bush, where I was born.

I can see the old gums waving  
To the pressure of the wild,  
Warm winds of golden summer  
That I longed for as a child.

And the spirit of Australia—  
They must suffer who would love—  
In my heart has found a nesting;  
Now she coos, a Cushat dove:—

*"For a mess of foreign pottage  
Would you sell to feed your mouth,  
All the golden dreams I bring you  
From my Love-land in the South?"*

"Go! and hunger in a suburb  
'Grimed with sooty London rain,  
For the splashing of the showers  
Through the clover and the cane!

"Though your years were richly gilded—  
If by Chance your Fortune smiles,  
You will languish for your Bushland  
And her free, unfettered miles.

"Like dry mud upon her gilgas  
Will your thirsty spirit gape,  
For the haze along the mountain,  
For the spindrift on the cape.

"You have watched the blue wave shoreward,  
You have tramped the yellow sand,  
You have wandered, you have gloried  
By Australian Sea and Land.

"Will a passing Fame content you,  
Or a little wealth repay  
All this heritage of Freedom  
That your hand would cast away?"

. . . .

Now the Soul within me sickens  
As old Illawarra green  
And the meadows of Shoalhaven,  
With her blue hills in between;

From their films of sunlit Fancy  
On a screen of Mem'ry gleam;  
And a train of glowing pictures  
Lies before me in a dream:—

Lo! high Gippsland ranges greet me,  
Where the young creeks at their play  
Give the dripping ferns in passing  
Saucy greeting and Good-day.

Lo! the level Plains unended  
Of a wondrous Riverine  
Roll before me to the sunset;  
And by magic strange, unseen,

I behold a wide Monaro,  
With her mountains in the snow;  
And her shadow-haunted gorges,  
Where the fearless riders go.

And the rivers! Oh, my rivers,  
How ye call me from afar,  
Where the sugar-cane is waving,  
And the mammoth melons are!

I am back in sunny Queensland,  
Where the custard-apples fruit;  
I am driving down the Logan,  
Where they grow the arrowroot.

*All* my tracks of travel glamor,  
*All* my camp-fires fondly glow—  
As Temptation waits an answer;  
And my answer shall be, "No!"

So—I fling his missive fire-ward,  
And I make reply in verse:  
“I am married . . . to *Australia*,  
Friend, for better or for worse.

“Yea, the call of mine ain country  
Is a louder call to me  
Than the lure of any far-land  
Where the flesh-pots smoking be.

“*You* may hunt your golden guineas  
In the gloom of London town . . .  
I am staying in the sunlight,  
And I turn temptation down.”

## GERRINGONG.

I wonder if the red blood dances through some young  
heart like wine

As, in the green Shoalhaven springtime it pulsed a-fire  
through mine?

I wonder if, when Morning marches his cohorts brave  
along

The purple hills of Cambewarra, they echo to the song  
Of some gay lad whose "love lies dreaming" down there  
in Gerringong?

Oh, I have wandered o'er the borders, and many lands  
I've seen—

The valleys of New England shining, the Queensland  
canefields green,

The black-soil plains in brown leagues rolling, the plains  
of Riverine.

But though in visions, wide and splendid, Australian pic-  
tures throng,

The fairest star of all my dreaming still burns o'er  
Gerringong.

Yea, I have answered to the longing. It lured me far  
and wide,  
Where dusty swagsmen plod the Distance, where bearded  
bushmen ride.  
I've heard, along the Gippsland ranges, the magpie's  
morning song;  
I've seen the sunset shadows lengthen through woods of  
Dandenong—  
But ah, the dew upon the clover that shines by Gerrin-  
gong!

And now in dreams I see the palm trees, high waving to  
the breeze,  
And hear, on curved Shoalhaven beaches, a surf-song of  
the seas,  
The creeks, from silver harps outpouring their constant  
symphonies;  
And all the glory of the southland and all her fervid  
song  
Of love and youth, in recollection, come back from Ger-  
ringong.

I wonder if some boy is yearning beneath the fig trees  
brown,  
As Fancy paints in pictures tempting the pleasures of the  
town,  
If in his soul the distant bugles with onward marches  
strong  
Of Glory and Achievement call *him* to join the city  
throng,  
While Love and Faith, alas, lie dreaming in drowsy  
Gerringong!



I wonder if a girl is waiting beneath the coral red,  
That like a wounded heart is bleeding in flowers over-  
head ;

While all the marvel of the morning, before her eyes  
outspread

The green delight of pastures gleaming, the picture and  
the song

Have grown to her but ghosts of Fancies—that died in  
Gerringong.

No more—though summer follow summer, and spring  
trip after spring,

Though clear among the scented lilies the joyous blue-  
caps sing,

Though from the little painted chapel a cynic shrill ding-  
dong

Of wedding bells at last may gladden the gossips in the  
throng—

That Coral Tree shall be their trysting in green, old  
Gerringong.

. . . . .

I wonder if, when Life's rich dishes pall one by one on  
him,

Among the aloes and the ashes, in day-dreams faint and  
dim,

That boy will watch the sun uprising across the water's  
rim ;

And in the clear Shoalhaven morning, heart-wearied,  
hear the song

Of Youth that long ago lay buried for aye in Gerringong.

## NORTHERN NIGHT.

The blistered roof, 'neath which we dwell,  
Blazed out across the Bay  
When Night in cooling quiet fell  
With Sunset, gold and gay;  
But now the breeze will freshen 'till  
An hour before the Day.

Mimosa San in Chinatown,  
Fresh-powdered, plump and tan,  
Inveigles wooers—white or brown—  
With eyes, and teeth, and fan;  
Mimosa San of Chinatown,  
But erstwhile of Japan.

Here British virtue takes a slight-  
Ly Asiatic hue;  
In theory remaining white,  
In practice turning blue.  
A tinted state of things which might  
Be somewhat weird to view,

Were not the click of chopsticks and  
Strange odors drifting down  
The streets from lanes on either hand  
Of this Australian town,  
Proclaiming, louder than the band,  
“ ’Tis merely White-and-Brown.”

In “crash,” “Assam,” or “duck,” or “drill,”  
The veteran and the cub  
Come out beneath the stars to kill  
Thirst longings *at* the club;  
The shirt-and-trouser'd plebeians will  
Foregather *in* the pub.

Harmonic is the Night with strange  
New songs of old desire—  
The Northern Life-notes surely range  
An impulse octave higher  
Within the heart, (the gods arrange  
Fit music to each lyre).

On coral harps, with pearl inlaid,  
And strings of Coen gold,  
Beneath the palms is nightly played  
A love-song warm and bold;  
The song young Eros told the maid  
In Paphian days of old.

A Queensland beach its silver wealth  
Is holding to the Moon!  
Anon, in Youth and Hope and Health—  
That fade, alas, so soon—  
Comes hopeful Romeo, in stealth,  
To crave his Juliet's boon.

While frangipani scents divine  
Across the coral flow,  
While sundered paw-paws, soaked in wine,  
Their fruity bouquet throw,  
While white magnolias, moonlit, shine  
And fire-flies flitting glow;

While Care is but a blunted sword  
In silken scabbard laid,  
And Death a mere remembered word  
That makes no soul afraid,  
Mimosa San shall find reward,  
And Romeo his maid.

So walks the Night, all-topic, bare  
And naked to the skies,  
In pleasure's burning roseway where  
The Land of Plenty lies,  
So walks the Night with fragrant hair  
And Asiatic eyes.

## NORTHERN MORNING.

Cool dews lie on the lilies yet that ride in purple ranks,  
Like galleys from the Isles of Sleep, along the river  
banks.

As lifted souls from Earth set free, pale swamp-mists  
slowly rise

To white-winged clouds of mystery, and vanish in the  
skies.

Their soft out-going stainless leaves those blue-robed  
skies to hold

A sun that lifts above the green his glowing disc of gold:  
But ere his banner in the East proclaims this pleasant  
strife

Of tropic day begun anew, all Nature wakes to life.

Fat dusky coots swim through the reeds; the red-bills  
from the maize—

Crop-heavy debauchees—stalk home. Now blithe a  
reed birds plays,

In notes like feathers by young winds on airy dances  
borne,

Mock matins to a stooping crane, phlegmatic and for-  
lorn.

A spurwing patters through the grass, a sleek white ibis  
frees

His priestly wing in leisured flight, and from the ring  
barked trees

A magpie yodels forth his joy; while, weary from their  
night—

Long journey towards the pleasant south, migrating  
snipe alight.

Brown eyes alert, wing feathers preened, self-conscious  
as she feeds,

The black duck like a widow plump floats gaily through  
the weeds.

High-poised upon his bending rush, a bluecap warbles  
clear,

A song of corn and sugarcane and Summer all the year.

From farmyards near and farmyards far, in promise loud  
is plied,

The axe that heralds morning tea and later breakfast-  
tide.

Till standing in their paddocks green, or clustered in  
the town,

A pleasant smoke of promise waves from each tall chim-  
ney crown.

Loud milk carts rattle down the lanes; their sleepy drivers  
sway

With swollen eyelids blinking yet owl-fashion at the Day,  
Till at the puffing creamery, with gleaming cans they  
stand,

To yield as tribute, each in turn, the Fatness of the Land.



With parted waters at her bow and curling waves astern,  
A river steamboat, trailing smoke, comes churning round  
the turn ;

Her wash breaks loudly on the banks. Slim reeds their  
tassels shake,

And nod in saucy petulance along her noisy wake.

Now glossy gleams the sunlit maize, and on the jointed  
cane

A Northern sun, rich profligate, pours down his golden  
rain ;

Enrichens thus, the fruitful gourd with benefaction kind ;  
And reds the melon's ripening heart beneath its mottled  
rind.

In umbrage cool of tree and vine the rambling houses  
doze.

Magnolias at their porches bloom and by their gates the  
rose,

Guavas in their gardens grow ; the smooth banana  
spreads

Its tropic shade and bunched delight above the milking-  
sheds.

The farmer in his hammock smokes a morning pipe at  
ease :

The farmer's son his stomach gluts beneath the mango  
trees ;

The farmer's daughter, whitely frocked, with patience  
labors on

The wailing keys that mourn aghast the griefs of Men-  
delssohn.

So, through this land of wealth and tilth  
like a bird

Of Paradise in plumage rare. From j  
unstirred,

Night's ling'ring coolness flies at length,  
maize and cane

The Sun, despotic overlord, triumphant re

## WILD CATTLE.

Wild cattle from the Wingen,  
Two hundred head of stores,  
On hills and ranges mustered,  
And by the lone, salt shores ;

Through sunlit forests stringing,  
Along a Gippsland trail,  
The mob is slowly headed  
Towards Bruthen, on to Sale.

On far and open pasture  
They lifted startled eyes,  
To see strange horsemen waking  
The morn with whips and cries.

Some, Nemesis accepted,  
But one, with spirit free,  
Charged hillward through the timber  
For life and liberty.

Then cracked the stockwhips louder ;  
Then yapped the sharp-tongued dogs ;  
The rotten bark in powder  
Flew from the fallen logs.

Bruised ferns and sword-grass trampled,  
Torn boughs and saplings bent,  
Marked plain across the ridges  
What way the wild chase went.

With muzzle dripping freely  
The frantic, long-horned steer  
Left horse and rider striving  
Three times upon his rear.

To blue hills of the Wingen  
'Twas hard to bid good-bye;  
In some red shambles driven  
Far from their peace to die.

Now as the mob is nearing  
The black lands of Orbost,  
Perchance in bovine yearning  
He pines for freedom lost.

He hears a night-tide pouring  
Across the shallow bars,  
When all the Bush is sleeping,  
Dew-freshened, 'neath the stars.

He sees, in silver gleaming,  
The lakes, lit by the moon,  
Cape Everard, in shadow,  
The marshes of Tamboon.

Long forelands, flower-emblazoned,  
Deep gullies and dark streams  
Through fern and dogwood gliding  
Still linger in his dreams.

And all that coastland lonely  
From Nadji to the Bemm,  
Where grows a sweet bush herbage,  
Calls softly unto him.

To-night along the Wingen  
A warrigal bewails  
Calf quarry—in perspective—  
Gone south'ard to the sales.

The loved hills of the Wingen,  
A long-horned steer desires,  
Who sees his human captors  
Out-stretched before their fires.

But all his pride lies humbled,  
And all his hope is gone.  
With lowered head, dejected,  
Lean-flanked, he stumbles on.

He knows the wild, free forelands,  
And open miles are lost  
To him whose Fate is waiting,  
Red-handed, by Orbost.

## NIGHT IN THE BUSH.

Now, like a curtain through the trees,  
By Nubian fingers drawn,  
Dusk closes in. And by degrees,  
On hillward slope and lawn,  
The shadows lengthen, spread, and fade  
In silent, phantom play,  
Until a darkened cloth is laid  
Upon the face of Day.

Their vesper songs, with folded wings,  
The magpies cease to pour ;  
Above the cow'ring feathered things  
The brown hawks poise no more ;  
And, as the last reflections die,  
Night-conquered in the West—  
All daylight Nature finds its high  
Leaf-hidden place of Rest.

But prim-gowned Eve hath brought a bright,  
A far, resplendent boon,—  
The Bush is Elfland fair and white  
A-glimmer in the moon!



In marble columns straight upstand  
Its smooth trunks one by one,  
To roof, o'er silver archways grand;  
A forest Parthenon.

And first a furred phalanger screams ;  
Then shrill the 'possums squeal.  
Deluded, in their avian dreams,  
As cheating moonbeams steal,  
In night groups, lifting tail and bill,  
The kookaburras wake,  
To laugh at intervals, until  
The morn begins to break.

Nocturnal birds, with eerie sounds,  
Pursue their hidden prey ;  
And far and wide the air abounds  
With courtship, chase and play.  
Marsupials bounding, thud the dark  
Close undergrowth in flight ;  
On sloughing trunks the hanging bark  
Is rustled by the Night.

Loud snorts a stock-horse scenting harm ;  
Pursued by formless fear  
He gallops forward to alarm  
A grazing equine peer ;  
Then wild hoofs clatter in his wake,  
The swishing saplings fly,  
And trodden sticks and branches break  
As on the scared brutes hie.

Where o'er the clearing far away  
A ground fog slowly floats,  
Chained watchdogs, dreaming, wake to bay  
All things with strident throats.  
Disturbed by varied mongrel howls  
And yelps and struggles vain,  
The wakened settler rudely growls  
Disgust, and sleeps again.

Daft morepokes swop across the ridge  
Some everlasting joke;  
Beneath the cranky homestead bridge  
Fat frogs, persistent, croak,  
Until the wild ducks, where the reeds  
Their slim, dark shadows throw,  
Forsake their night haunts by the weeds,  
Protesting as they go.

As dusk to midnight softly trails  
With slowly-certain pace,  
Afar the prowling dingo wails  
Of failure in the chase;  
And sudden sounds, that alternate  
With silence, still prevail,—  
The coarse koala scolds his mate;  
On green flats pipe the quail.

A lone, belated, horseman trolls  
A catch for company;  
And down the track an echo rolls,  
In clear-toned mockery;

Then fur and feather, hushed, await  
Until the clamour dies,  
To slow resume an inchoate  
Refrain of calls and cries.

My camp-fire, damped by falling dews,  
Still lower burns, and low;  
A puzzled paddymelon views  
Its red, unwonted glow;  
A bandicoot in quest of yams  
Goes grunting sourly thence—  
From habitat repelled, he damns  
Such human impudence.

Now, greyly through the shadowed trees  
A new light, wan and strange,  
Falls faintly, with a herald breeze  
That whispers from the range;  
And o'er the cool and quiet Bush—  
Grown wondrous still and free  
From sounds of Life—there falls a hush  
Of calm expectancy.

So pale the lower stars in turn  
Have grown along the East;  
The morning star alone doth burn  
With radiance increased.  
As tea-rose petals swiftly blown  
Along a spacious lawn,  
The fields of sky are freely sown  
With blossoms of the Dawn.

And *now* the queenly Bush aside  
Has thrown her garb of gloom ;  
The East is burning like a bride  
With roses all in bloom.  
Gay morning clouds, hibiscus red,  
Adoring hearts unfold  
Before a caliph sun whose head  
Is diademed with gold.

The Land awakes in scent and song ;  
And far and near is heard  
In concert from the creeks along,  
The call of bird to bird.  
With color, gladness, and delight  
In all her bright array,  
Refreshed by dews of cloudless Night,  
The Bush salutes her Day!

*THE DAY THE MAILMAN COMES.*

When Mabel puts her hair in trim,  
And Sis her brooches wears ;  
When Emma, in the firelight dim,  
The floury scone prepares ;  
And at the sliprails brother Jim  
Across the gloaming stares—

These signs and portents knowledge bring  
To all the Bush—and you,  
That Expectation, bright of wing,  
The farmhouse flutters through—  
For—as the kettle seems to sing—  
“To-night the mailman’s due.”

In slop-made suit of dusty brown,  
And greasy, wide-brimmed hat,  
He comes, a welcome guest from town,  
Each week to Reedy Flat,  
And brings the latest cables down—  
A fortnight old at that.

A cheerful, slow, bucolic wight,  
Bowlegged and saddle-bred,  
With lank, oiled hair an auburn bright,  
And nose a blistered red,  
He smokes and gossips thro' the night  
Till long past "time for bed."

The cables and the market news  
The Old Man in his chair  
Absorbs, and ventilates his views  
On irresponsible air—  
They have no precious time to lose  
On Balkan troubles there;

When Sandy Scott, his local store  
Of current scandal, chat,  
In-gathered eighty bush miles o'er,  
Unloads to glad the Flat,  
And fills his briar pipe once more,  
And spits across the cat.

His tale of marriage, death and birth,  
The district happ'nings small;  
Those things of tragedy or mirth  
That tears or laughter call,  
The human things from o'er the Earth,  
Long Sandy stocks them all.



The pen-scrawled words of love and trade ;  
The missives honey-sweet,  
In seal across his saddle laid,  
He bears with air discreet ;  
Why should the pathway not be made  
More pleasant to his feet?

Why should he not the best beds get ;  
His plate the tit-bits hold?  
And by his knife a serviette  
Be placed in careful fold,  
With something special "for the wet,"  
Or else to "cure his cold"?

A golden link he makes between  
The world and Reedy Flat.  
In dusty suit, and necktie green,  
And greasy, soft, felt hat—  
But Emma, turning seventeen,  
Could tell you more of that.

No wonder Mabel curls her hair,  
And Sis a ditty hums,  
And Bill, with neither ear nor air,  
The old piano strums—  
Romance is in the clear bush air  
The day the mailman comes.

## THE BOOK.

Before me gleams a Volume, rare,  
And radiant to behold;  
With picture-poems painted, fair,  
In lines of green and gold.

That Great Raphael, who moulds the flower,  
And stains the sunset skies  
Its Author is. No critic dour  
His workmanship decries.

Homeric is his theme, and this  
No halting rhythm mars—  
What bard-song ever soared like His  
Whose harp-strings reach the stars?

With Art sublime the Great Book glows;  
And magic minstrelsies;  
And Music from its pages flows,  
In chords that never cease.

On each fresh page this endless tome  
Some new delight doth hold;  
Its readers may for ever roam  
By wonder-ways untold.

Aye, he who cares, may turn at will  
Rare treasure-leaves, to learn  
Of cool cloud shadows o'er the hill  
Or sunlight on the fern.

Slow may he follow—all his soul  
A-thrill with long delight—  
The changing Seasons, as they roll;  
The path of Day and Night.

His eye may wander in the Spring  
O'er dewy lands, a-sheen;  
Where fairy martins sweeping wing  
Across the paddocks green;

Or scarlet lories, in their flight  
Among the wattles, fold  
Their turquoise wings; to drop like bright,  
Red rubies flung on gold.

Oh! he may gloat the hillsides clear,  
That em'rald with the vine;  
The waving wheatfields just in ear,  
The silken-coated kine;

When from her green the briar breaks,  
A sweet rose-sister shy,  
Or proud, the lordly gynea shakes  
His crimson banners high.

A serial of the seasons, he  
Who loves the Book may read—  
The tale of summer, joyous see  
Imprinted on the mead

In yellow heads of ripened wheat,  
Or purple clusters, hung ;  
In orchards, breathing forth the sweet  
Of ripened fruit downflung.

Beneath the ti-tree down the creeks  
Is writ a chapter cool,  
Wherein the tongue of Nature speaks  
From shaded reach and pool.

Brown Autumn, like a dairy lass  
With rain-wet cheeks of health,  
A rosy gleaner, too, will pass—  
Her apron full of wealth.

When sloughed, curled bark, the silver trees,  
From shining trunks unswathe,  
Like nymphs by singing, summer seas  
Disrobing ere they bathe.

When lines the dasyure lean his lair ;  
When moults the wild black swan ;  
And shifting snipe are elsewhere ;  
And covey quail are gone.

When wine and must, and yellow gourd;  
    Fat sacks of spilling grain,  
In rick and loft and cellar stored,  
    Bespeak the garnered gain.

So Winter steals, with soft warm rains,  
    To soak the canefields all;  
So Southern snow, knee-deep remains  
    Along the ranges tall.

So Winter in her fur-lined gown  
    And hood and muff of grey,  
Goes tripping o'er the farmlands brown,  
    Frost-jewelled on her way.

Aye, from this Book the Bards-to-be,  
    The Painters yet unborn,  
Their songs will glean in ecstasy:  
    Their pictures clothe with Morn.

The shades of those, in Austral rhyme  
    Who wrote, as pioneers,  
Will surely hail that full, sublime,  
    Rich culture of the years.

When I have turned the Puzzle Key,  
    That opes the Low Black Door;  
And from this human entity  
    Go forth, to sing no more.

On some Australian hill, that greens  
With bourgeonage of grass ;  
Where down the Morning's cool deme  
The glowing day-winds pass ;

Low lay me down. Nor wet in grief  
The Old Earth-Book with tears ;  
Remembering that line and leaf  
Were mine through many years.



## RED RIVER.

Here wave and rock their conflict fine  
For ever loudly wage:  
Here writes the Ocean, line by line  
Along a plastic page,  
His lyric of a mood divine,  
Then blots it out in rage.

Here young suns, rising in the clear,  
Cool mornings, deftly gild  
With leaf-of-gold the ti-tree near;  
And, with fresh vigor filled,  
From restful darkness re-appear  
The ranges many-hilled.

Here, from a dying sun at eve,  
The red blood freely flows  
In westward wounds. Rich doth he leave  
Endowered as he goes,  
A widowed Bush, to briefly grieve  
In weeds of pink and rose.

Here spreads the Night a slumber sheet,  
With jewels thickly strewed,  
And lays soft carpets for the feet  
Of Rest and Quietude;  
Nor at her door shall Fashion beat  
Or flaunting Vice intrude.

Here from a silver lamp of light,  
And from a golden bowl,  
The Moon outpours her bounty white;  
Until her lunar soul,  
A-waning, turns in fading flight  
Unto another goal.

Here tramp patrolling seasons four:  
In floral chevrons gay,  
Spring lords the conquered coastlands o'er,  
And laughing, goes his way.  
His sleepless tramp along the shore,  
In capote long and grey,

Stern Winter keeps. Red River sees  
Imperial Summer throw  
His fiery banners to the breeze;  
And—treading soft below  
The shadows of the sloughing trees—  
Regretful Autumn go.

In matted scrubs along its edge  
The prowling dingo hides ;  
The snake around the granite ledge,  
Fork-tongued and cautious glides ;  
And in the shallows by the sedge  
The preening black-duck bides.

Like wind among the reeds by shores  
Where ancient cities shone,  
Where once, with royal sweep of oars,  
Tall galleys thundered on,  
A pæan of regret outpours  
At dusk the sable swan.

As those old masters of the quaint  
East, lost in Aryan night,  
Once outlined on rice-paper faint  
His slow and drooping flight—  
The blue crane, shrilling harsh complaint,  
Lifts upward in affright.

On silent horses, Night and Day,  
Along Red River ride.  
December suns and moons of May  
Above it softly glide ;  
And rare intruders, passing, stray  
An hour its stream beside.

Strong stallion springtides caracole  
In white-maned Arab bands  
Full-chested on the forward roll;  
And, o'er the banking sands,  
Unto Red River bear the scroll  
Of Ocean's high commands;

But when, in turn, a yearning neap  
Grieves by the naked shore,  
The seaward sands their cordon keep  
From point to point once more;  
And drifted weed and kelp in heap  
A noisome protest pour.

Like bleached, unburied bones among  
The rank grass, rotting lie  
The spars of some great vessel, flung  
On this hard coast to die,  
While wind and storm her death-knell rung  
In that dark night gone by.

Since when these broken remnants, trailed  
In token drear, were found,  
No man hath learned from whence she hailed,  
Nor whither was she bound;  
What company with her outsailed,  
What luckless crew was drowned.

How drove she on the rocks, that sealed  
Her dread fate long ago;  
What waiting hearts at length were healed  
Or broken in their woe,  
Shall ne'er be riddled or revealed  
While live ships come and go.

For these, and all its secrets lone,  
Of Tempest, Tide and Sea—  
Remote, afar, and aye alone  
Through all the years that be—  
Red River keepeth in its own  
Deep heart of mystery.

## O'MEARA'S WELL.

Twenty miles from any township, twenty miles on either  
track,  
Lay the holding of O'Meara, in the myall, 'way out back ;  
Five and fifty hundred acres "dogleg" fenced and partly  
rung,  
With a blazing sun above it in it's cloudless Heaven  
hung.

Fighting Fate lived Con O'Meara, fighting drought and  
pests, and so  
Cursed his luck ; and ofttimes threatened that he'd "shling  
it up and go."  
Gave the place another trial ; tried to mortgage, tried to  
sell ;  
Laid his blessings on the country, cursed the Government  
as well.

Ye who know but pleasant places where the winding  
waters be,  
Know not ye their pining stintage when the earth gapes  
thirstily.  
Year on year the lean selector saw his shallow dams go dry,  
Saw his stock fall poor and perish, saw his ewes and  
wethers die.



Long he puzzled, prayed, and reasoned—Con was  
thoughtful and devout—

And at last from seas of problems fished one firm conclusion out:—

“God,” he cried, “is full of mercy; ne’er He sint a curse  
on earth

But he sint a cure beside it, since the world of Man had  
birth.

“Rain enough of Hivin’s mercy falls to wet the Western  
land,

“Wor it not for waste and soakage, waste and soakage in  
the sand.”

In his hut of pine and shingle Con O’Meara reasoned so;  
Thumped his knee with this conundrum, “Where the  
dickins does it go?”

Thinking deep, and thinking deeper, drew analogy from  
sheath,

Waved the sword of Sense and Logic, found it *must* go  
underneath!

“I will dig!” cried then O’Meara; “I will start and sink  
a shaft,

“And I’ll thrack and find that wather if I thrack till I  
am daft!”

Took he straightway pick and shovel, bucket, windlass,  
length of rope;

Found a spot of pleasing promise, dug with courage,  
strength and hope.

And when failure faced him leering, he’d re-elevate his  
pick,

Swear to find the hidden water if he burrowed to Old  
Nick.

"There's a 'rayseevoyer' for sartin," he would mumble,  
delving deep,

"I must strike the same this winther, if I mane to save me  
sheep.

"Sick am I of shallow sinking, 'tis a fact beyant a doubt

"That this 'rayseevoyer' lies deeper, and I've got to find  
it out."

Down he went in treble figures, dug and picked and  
wound away,

Till his back was bent from labor, till his beard was  
streaked with grey.

Then, his spirit all but broken, then, his last dam all but  
done,

Con O'Meara came to water one hot eve at setting sun!

Up it flowed in joyous bubbles, warm and sparkling,  
white and clear;

And O'Meara, at the bottom, rose a hoarse and thankful  
cheer;

Bade young Con to man the windlass, filled his billy to  
the brim—

He had struck the rock like Moses, and the rock had  
answered him.

Oh! the red head of O'Meara rose the excavation o'er;  
And, in pride, his brimming billy towards the hut aloft he  
bore

"From the 'rayseevoyer!' he shouted, "and 'tis risin' fresh  
and free—

Glory to the Western Country; Judy darlint, come and  
see!"

Faithful Judy, patient partner, mother of O'Meara's  
boys,  
Sharer of his toil and sorrow, shure she rushed to share  
his joys;  
And the sprigs of Con O'Meara mustered up in eager  
haste  
Round their sire, the law announcing, "She must be the  
first to taste!"

Hither now Australian painters, students of the won-  
drous bush,  
Here is light and color fitting, here is subject for the  
brush;  
See the sunset in the distance; see the spreading plain  
and sere;  
Group your figures in the foreground, with the windlass  
standing near!

"Drink deep health to Ballyvannan," proud O'Meara  
filled the lid,  
And with hand that shook and trembled shure the cray-  
thur tuk and did!——  
(Here some dashes, kind Sir Printer, for the Muse in  
sorrow halts.)  
"Howly Saints!" poor Judy spluttered, "Howly Saints,  
*it's Ipsom salts!"*

Fell the head of Con O'Meara, and the sprigs in grief  
withdrew,  
As they sampled each the water, as they sampled, spat,  
and knew;

And that night on Ballyvannan rose no laugh or joyous  
sound,  
Rose no song of Celtic triumph the exultant welkin  
round.

Grief lay heavy on O'Meara, stern and set his furrowed  
face,  
Nor a-seeking 'raysevoyers' sank he shafts about the  
place.  
One by one the ribbed stock perished; ten by ten the ewes  
went down;  
Day by day the hot sun glinted on the dried-up grass and  
brown.

Autumn fell, and with it bidding came a kinsman overseas,  
Full of Dublin wit and larnin'; full of wisdom and  
degrees,  
He had sped a-seeking knowledge, and mayhap to gather  
gold,  
Wooing wealth in foreign places, as our fathers did of  
old.

Blood it thicker is than water, though the water West  
away  
It was thick as glue that summer, as unwritten records  
say;  
So he sought his Irish kinsfolk, found them, yea, in evil  
case,  
Where the hand of Drought had written *DESOLATION*  
on the place.

"Welcome to my sisther's first-born," spake O'Meara at  
the rails.

"Welcome, welcome, Dinny darlint, to the land of New  
South Wales.

Poor the fare we have to offer, poor the cover, poor the  
bed,

But the Irish heart is open, and the Irish blood is red."

. . . . .

They foregathered, they foregathered, in their eyes were  
smiles and tears,

As they spake beneath the rafters, as they talked beyant  
the years,

This and that one, Pat and Mary, stream and mountain,  
bog and hill;

Rest the dead! Their sowls to glory. God be wid ould  
Ireland still.

In the morn they walked together, and O'Meara told his  
grief,

How his faith had turned to ashes, how his fortune  
proved a thief.

By the fatal shaft they lingered, where the rotting rope  
was wound,

Where the earth hard-heaved and lifted lay in mullock  
heaps around.

By the shaft was still the billy—long discarded, red with  
rust—

Where the grieved selector hurled it, with his curses, in  
the dust,

On the hook O'Meara hung it, careless, listless, let it drop,  
Wound it up to prove his statements, leaking slowly, to  
the top.

"Taste it for yerself, alannah, ye have thravelled here an'  
there,

But ye niver dhrank say wather up the counthry, that  
I'll swear."

Dinny took and Dinny tasted, he had journeyed near and  
far,

As my Lord of Cashel's tutor he had onetime been to  
Spa.

"By my sowl! my honest uncle!" cried this youth of books  
and wit,

"'Tis a first-class min'ral water—there should be a call  
for it,

Salts, magnesia, yes, and iron. Why I should not be  
surprised,

But the Faculty would boom it if you had it analysed!"

Loud and hearty laughed O'Meara: "Shure 'tis larning  
drives ye mad,

Ye are but a new chum, Dinny, that ye are my honest lad.  
Ye are welcome to the wather, take an dhrink it if ye  
can,

An' I wish ye joy an' pleasure of your physic, Nephew  
Dan."



"Done!" said Dan. "We'll strike a bargain. Bring the bottle. Patrick's Day Shall not pass without rejoicing in Australia far away." It was good potheen my brothers. Where it came from know not I, But I know no Celtic homestead on this day of days goes dry.

And I swear that Irish whisky and Australian Spa—  
(with Dan)  
Taken—well, in moderation, never hurt an Irishman. E'en O'Meara scorning, tasted, and he turned and said,  
"Bedad,  
When ye thrate it with the liquor, be me sowl it *isn't* bad."

They signed a pledge, a contract pledge, and deeply washed it down,  
That they should stand in equal shares. Next day into the town,  
Some samples at his saddle bow, the hopeful Daniel went  
To see the Chemist of the place, with business-like intent.

The Chemist and the Doctor both considered and agreed, Dan's specimens of min'ral wealth were very rich indeed. Then Daniel (who had two degrees), he tipped the Doc. the wink,  
And took the "paper man" across to Cleary's for a drink.

They made him try the waters too.    Enlisted his support  
port

(The Press is mighty, and 'tis wise to have a friend at  
Court).

A month went by, young Dan worked hard, a man of  
parts was he,

And with the Doctor and the Priest, he formed a Com-  
pany.

They asked the local magnates out.    And with a case  
or two,

A barrel, and O'Meara's well, they made a special brew,  
The picnic proved a huge success.    The district to a  
man

Soon swore by Con O'Meara's Well, and by his nephew  
Dan.

And, by the post! before a year from when the "Co."  
was floated

The shares in Con. O'Meara's Well were at a premium  
quoted.

Ere eighteen month, two stories high, beside the Min'ral  
Well,

All in its painted glory stood "O'Meara's Grand Hotel."

Now at the door stands honest Con, whilst Judy minds  
the bar,

Aud custom comes in buggy loads to drink the Famous  
Spa.

Promoting appetite and health, enriching Con and Dan;  
The first is now a live Jay Pee, the last an Alderman!

And waggons piled with bottled Spa go to the Railway  
down,

Promoting appetite and health as far as Sydney town.

But when St. Patrick's Day comes round O'Meara from  
the shelf

A rusty billy taketh down and fills the same himself.

And round the grand piano stands O'Meara's household  
all,

While Con for "Soilence in the coort!" in legal voice  
doth call.

They stand and toast O'Meara's Well, an Irish cheer  
between,

While little Judy thumps and bangs "The Wearing of  
the Green."



## FAR AND WIDE.

*I'll call you to the Beaches,  
And you shall bide with me,  
Along the river reaches  
And by the open Sea.*

Far and wide I have to wander,  
Far and wide and to and fro;  
'Cross the Seas and o'er and under  
Everywhere the Rovers go.

"Rolling stones no mosses gather,"  
Let the careful critic moan;  
In my heart I know, I'd rather  
Be a restless rolling stone.

When I feel the soul-relieving  
Comfort of the cradling sea,  
When the giant hills upheaving  
Into God's blue sky I see;

When the brown plains spread before me,  
And I slacken out the rein,  
With a noon sun burning o'er me,  
Then I *know* my loss is gain.

Let me watch the sea-rain falling,  
Smell the salt, deck-driven spray;  
Let me hear the bush-birds calling  
At the dawning of the day.

Let me see the sun-bars streaming  
Down the valleys, ere the night  
Fills the world with pleasant dreaming,  
Love and coolness and delight.

Inland creeks and shoreward rivers,  
How they beckon and they croon;  
Ah, the long dry grass that quivers  
Ere the grey clouds cast their boon.

E'er the forests tall and splendid  
Lure me with their light and shade,  
And the rolling downs unended  
Like a bridal carpet laid.

Gypsy come! The golden beaches  
Hold their arms to you and me.  
Gypsy come! The water reaches  
Call us to them lovingly!

In the North green palm glades keep their  
Vigils 'neath the cloudless moon;  
Glutted pigeons safely sleep there,  
Freely filled with fruited boon.

In the South a cold wind, singing,  
Sways the high limbs to and fro,  
And the Magpie homeward winging  
Carols of the coming snow.

Gypsy come! the wide bush waits us  
Gypsy come! the wide seas call,  
Near and far the world awaits us,  
We are wild hearts after all.

Far and wide we twain will wander,  
All the world, the world to know,  
Far and wide and o'er and under,  
By the roads the Rovers go.



## RINGY RINGY ROSY.

*"Ringy ringy rosy,"* the morning skies are blue,  
And yonder by the slip-rails your sweetheart waits for  
you.

The lizards on the fences are basking in the sun,  
The Wintertime is over, the Summertime's begun.  
*"Ringy ringy rosy,"* round and round they go,  
The glad and happy children of thirty years ago.

Those cool and frosty mornings, oh, I remember well  
The wattles by the wayside, the warnings of the bell,  
The manna 'neath the gumtrees that showered overnight  
From Nature's secret sources, to make a child's delight;  
The yams for which we rooted, the quinces hard and  
tart

We swapped for tops and marbles, a fallen log our mart!

*"Ringy ringy rosy"*—across the years I hear  
The voices from the schoolyard uprising strong and clear;  
And all the proud achievement, the failure and the strife,  
That make the sordid total of this our mortal life;  
The pomp and human splendor, the Future and the Past,  
When weighed within the balance seem little things at  
last.

To be a World's Immortal, to be a world's unknown,  
Win monument of marble, or simple slab of stone—  
How little matters either, when every foe and friend  
Must come to lie together in quiet at the end!  
When pays each generation, of high or humble birth,  
Its tribute unto Caesar, its dust unto the Earth!

*"Ringy ringy rosy"*—beyond the lands and seas  
We carry our delusions, we bear our memories.  
The world is full of pleasure, the world is full of pain—  
Alas, the golden morning that never comes again!  
*"Ringy ringy rosy,"* round and round they go,  
The blithe and merry children of thirty years ago.

*"Ringy ringy rosy,"* a requiem it seems,  
In saddened notes recalling my boyhood hopes and  
dreams.  
The silver song of Childhood! Who would not give to be  
A child again, the harvest of all the land and sea?  
*"Ringy ringy rosy!"* I hear the sweet refrain  
Re-echoed in the morning across the years again.

*"Ringy ringy rosy,"* the fields are wet with dew,  
And yonder by the slip-rails your sweetheart waits for  
you;  
The briar by the wayside is turning to the sun,  
The Wintertime is over, the Summertime's begun.  
*"Ringy ringy rosy,"* round and round we'll sing,  
Our simple songs of Childhood, the children of the  
Spring.

SAME AS YOU.

If your luck is out with women; if you've looked too  
 long on wine,  
 Do not sit and nurse the anger of your anguish, brother  
 mine,  
 For the sun will rise to-morrow, and the skies be just as  
 blue,  
 And you'll find that other fellows have their troubles—  
 same as you.

There's a gun for you to carry; there's an oar for you to  
 pull;  
 There's a saddle and a stockwhip, and the earth is  
 bountiful;  
 There's a corner for you somewhere; there's another  
 girl to woo;  
 And you'll meet a mate out yonder, who has suffered,  
 same as you.

Though your aching heart be empty, and your pockets  
 much the same,  
 Though the dice of Fate ARE loaded, be a man and play  
 the game!  
 There is something left to live for—to your own strong  
 soul be true.  
 And we'll take your hand and grip it, who have battled,  
 same as you.

You may never back the winner, you may never win the  
maid;

You may never find a nugget, make a fortune out of  
trade;

But you'll always find your manhood, if you keep the  
fact in view,

That some other chaps are trying to be honest—~~same~~  
as you.

When they come to add up figures, and to total you and  
me,

When the Game of Life is over, and all things as nothing  
be,

It may chance—who knoweth brother—that the old  
beliefs were true?

And His voice across the Shadow, shall re-echo through  
and through—

“Peace be with ye, Sons of Sorrow! I have suffered—  
same as you!”

*THE FLAME TREE.*

Drab-feathered birds of sorrow  
Droop no dull wings of Care;  
Nor doth a sere To-morrow,  
Red droughts, malign, prepare  
When Spring with Illawarra  
Makes compact green and fair.

The sun, in harness splendid,  
His chariot of gold  
Through azure fields unended,  
Drives forth; a hero bold,  
As when o'er Hellas bended  
Idyllic skies of old.

Its ringed, round, column Doric  
The slender palm tree sways,  
Though no wild wood-nymphs choric  
A-down green shaded ways  
Of tree-fern unhistoric,  
Give Dionysius praise.

With shoreward sapphires laden,  
And landward leaf and vine,  
The vestal South arrayed in  
Bejewelled raiment fine,  
Burns forth a fire-eyed maiden  
Of Roses, Love and Wine.

And, where her mountains yearning,  
Turn eastward towards the seas—  
Their coal-seams darkly urning  
Dead forest mysteries—  
Out-stands in vesture burning  
This Cardinal of Trees.

Flame-capped, in scarlet glory ;  
With fiery plumes, upflung,  
Like some Rose Knight of story  
By courtly minstrels sung,  
A proud Conquistadore  
He shines his peers among.

Where sounds his clear reveille  
The whip-bird in the morn ;  
Where cradled by the valley  
Triumphant day is born,  
And on the hillsides rally  
The clouds of Night forlorn ;

'Mid green-robed rivals, claiming  
The rapt beholder's view,  
In scarlet pride outflaming  
Against the skyline blue,  
Afar he stands, proclaiming  
The royal Richelieu.



With parasitic clinging,  
To him no servile vine—  
Its trailing minions bringing—  
Be-mirks his royal line,  
In leafless pride upspringing,  
A king by right divine.

But loyal ferns, unflowered,  
That kiss his feet of state,  
With benisons are dowered  
From his o'er-rich estate,  
In red abundance showered  
From high pontificate.

Nor do they homage falter  
Bird choristers a-wing,  
But high a fluted psalter  
O'er festooned transepts sing,  
When red before her altar  
He lights the Torch of Spring.

The glory of Australia,  
This floral hierarch cries.  
In sunlit rose regalia  
Beneath her summer skies,  
The Genius of Australia,  
Full-bloomed, he typifies.

## MORDIALLOC.

The haze along the hillsides, the sparkle on the Bay  
Marconi forth the message of Spring's advance to-day.  
Now all the fields are blazoned with epaulettes of gold ;  
Now all the trees their standards of Victory uphold.  
In gallant cohorts riding, white gloves upon their hands,  
The soldier seas are marshalled along Port Phillip's  
sands.

So dream we here together of all sweet things that be,  
By drowsy Mordialloc, a-facing to the sea.

To-day no red-robed Angel of Discontent shall mar  
Our peace with drums of discord or clash of social war ;  
To-day this land Aegean of roses, love and wine,  
In all its lotus splendor is wholly yours and mine,  
While Commerce, coarsely strident, plays out her vulgar  
part,

Romance shall be our handmaid, with Poesy and Art.  
We left the mart behind us, in Flinders-street, that we  
Might find at Mordialloc a temple by the sea.

Your hair hath meshed the sunbeams ; your voice is low  
and sweet

(French heels enhance, 'tis certain, the play of pretty  
feet).

This Southern land that gave you your roses and your  
pearl

Is maiden yet to conquest ; like you—a careless girl.

These meadows all around us, to me they but enfold  
Your daintiness—a ruby, set in Australian gold:  
The spirit of my own land, vivacious, young and free,  
To-day at Mordialloc, expression finds in thee.

So falls your voice in rhythm; so beats my heart in tune;  
While by a velvet stairway creeps down the Afternoon,  
Till lo! at Evening's doorway she standeth soft and shy  
To wave in sunset blushes duenna Day good-bye. . . .  
Now creeps the slow sail shoreward across the darkening

Bay;

Now close in silent thousands, the blossoms of the Day;  
The haze hath left the foreland, the light hath left the  
sea;

White stars, by Mordialloc, burn over you and me.

#### L'ENVOI.

But when the wheels of Action once more around me  
whirl,

I'll think of Mordialloc, a sunset and a girl;

And where upon his service—the red-robed Angel—I

Go forth his will proclaiming, all days, until I die,

Though Duties stern command me, though proud ambi-  
tions call

The waves by Mordialloc shall sing beyond them all!

And, golden as thy tresses, with inward sight I'll see

The sun on Mordialloc go down—in memory.

## INCENTIVE.

Let lean Ambition seek its goal; fat Wealth its hoard  
increase,

Sour Vanity achieve its gauds, and social triumphs please  
Dyspeptic dames and feline fops;—beneath the aching  
sky

The living hosts, all graveward bound, with groan and  
laugh go by.

I do not enter for the prize. The gold for which men  
stint,

Cheat, lie and perjure, rob and kill, fresh sovereigns  
from the Mint,

Is not more precious in itself, more perfect in the scale  
Supreme of earthly loveliness than any simple, frail,

Sweet, yellow buttercup that lifts for any ploughman's  
eye,

Its burnished coin of floral gold from Earth's unerring  
die.

Nor doth the stamped, white silver seem a fairer thing  
to me

Than scales upon the salmon's side or moonlight on the  
sea.

Write not my name upon the lists! Will any glory  
save—

Though I grow great as Buonaparte—my body from the  
grave?

For where is Artaxerxes now? He shareth with the  
hound

That licked his royal feet in fear, a common couch of  
ground.

The flesh of fossil beasts and birds; the mouse and  
mastodon,

The flesh that quivered under-claw in primal forests  
gone;

The hearts that gloried with the gods, or cowered 'mid  
the swine,

A heritage of sure decay at birth received—like mine.

Let others to the Strident Way! The proud inventor  
feeds

With each discordant, new machine but new-created  
needs;

Each fresh philosophy in turn the last entire disproves,  
And further from the searcher's grasp Life's hidden truth  
removes.

All such is waste and emptiness. My son, but small  
per cent.

Of what men strive and sicken for repays the effort  
spent.

This spiral whorl that man calls "Life," this hurry that  
we boast

As "Modern Progress" in our pride, is tinsel at the most.

I will not caper in the dance ; too well the tune I know ;  
'Twas old when Nineveh was young ; amid pre-glacial  
snow

They played it on the boulevards ; millennia ago  
When Paris yet a village was of hungry Eskimo.

I will not stumble in the race, with ever-failing feet,  
When conquest ends in slavery, and triumph spells  
defeat.

My house is on the hilltops reared ; the paths that glamor  
me

Lie out across the level land and by the level sea.

As Esau have I sold my place ; but yet, a millionaire,  
I draw entail my heritage of life and love and air ;  
Red health at riot in the veins, the flesh-pot on the fire,  
Full larder and a covering—what more shall man desire ?

Green Nature's coffers, spilling wealth, red draperies of  
Morn

That richen o'er the east when Day, another prince, is  
born ;

The noontide shadows falling cool through forests darkly  
fair,

The star tiaras that the Night sets in her raven hair,

These dower rich my pleased eyes ; and in my ears the  
strong,

Majestic music of the winds that dog white flocks along  
Blue parks celestial, till the rain, their shepherd grey and  
old,

In spreading mantle comes again, to gather them in fold ;



The arias of running streams, the thunder's Marseillaise,  
The aves and the glorias a vagrant night breeze plays  
On choric harps of forest oak; wild marches of the seas,  
And insects droll and singing birds—these make my  
melodies.

The Garden of my Choice distils rare scents from flowers  
unseen,  
Though never meddling gard'ner delved among its  
arbors green;  
And, save by fickle winds, unswept, its shaded walks and  
ways  
Still bloom in constant fruitfulness, unsown thro' winter  
days.

The Temple of my Worship knows nor heresies nor  
creeds,  
No pontiff walks its lofty aisles; no kneeling prelate  
reads  
His liturgies of human wants; but all its shrines untrød  
Are loud with adoration, and the Nearer Voice of God.

So would I that my days shall pass: and if this hand  
record,  
From all the Beauties of the World, but one eternal  
word:  
I know my days will not be vain; nor shall I weigh  
the cost  
Of earthly riches unattained or human glories lost.

## DREAMERS TOO.

We have lived long years for a white-robed dream—  
The dream of Australia fair,  
With the vine and corn by her hill and stream,  
And the sunshine in her hair ;  
And the plain and strand of our native land,  
They were ever calling there.

We have toiled and won from the forest's maze  
The boon of a white man's home ;  
We have reared our sons to their manhood days,  
And seen them settle, or roam.  
And the young brood, too, as they spread and grew,  
Has dreamed 'neath the sapphire dome.

Shall we cease to dream? Not so, my son,  
Blue-eyed and Australian-born,  
We will dream our dream till the signal gun  
Proclaimeth the battle morn,  
Till the war cry thrills through the woods and hills,  
And the women wait forlorn.

We will dream our dream ; but a waking dream  
Of the White Man, strong and free,  
Full armed to meet with a strength supreme,  
The foes of his liberty,  
If the loud shells sing and the rifles ring  
In the storm of the days to be.

## DAUGHTER OF THE NORTH.

'Tis pleasant where the Harbor meets  
These Southern waters blue ;  
There's joy of life in Melbourne streets,  
From Carlton unto Kew.

Fair Adelaide, beneath her hills,  
In gracious splendor gleams ;  
And Perth with younger vigor fills  
The morning of her dreams.

True hearts Australian unto each  
Beat loyally and fond ;  
Their rival claims as cities reach  
Out, over, and beyond.

But, Daughter of the North, whose eyes  
Of trustful, tender brown,  
Are aching for the cloudless skies  
Above your native town,

Full well I know that, far away,  
In day-dreams once again,  
You see the tall maize nod and sway,  
And hear the rustling cane.

The "silky oaks" are crowned with gold ;  
All purple lies the pave,  
In Northern springtime where the bold,  
Bare jacarandas wave ;

And o'er the river flats the bees,  
From out the lucerne flow'rs  
Are freighting on winged argosies  
Sweet plunder thro' the hours.

The dairy herds above their knees  
In long, swamp grasses laze;  
Or chew a clover cud at ease  
Through warm September days.

From Copmanhurst to Yamba bar,  
Through all the tilth between;  
From Chatsworth out to Yugilbar  
The Earth is garden green.

Beloved of the North, once more  
That symphony I hear—  
The sunlit rollers to the shore  
Sang in the morning clear.

Your crow-black hair was wet with spray,  
As fresh from far Japan  
A young Nor'-Easter called the Day  
On all the pipes of Pan.

Impassioned, by a summer sea  
That wooed a tropic strand,  
We drained our cup of ecstasy—  
Your hand within my hand.

Yes, pleasant is this Harbor fair—  
But oh, dear heart of mine  
What glory where the jungles wear  
Their virgin robes of vine!

What glamor o'er each islet green,  
The river, rich with farms,  
Is holding, like a conquered queen,  
Within her lover's arms.

What hyacinthine hours we shared  
Beside the Clarence clear,  
Whose water-lilies only heard  
The olden story, dear.

Some night mayhap, when Fortune's boon  
Has lent a golden ray,  
We'll meet in jest beneath the moon  
And walk the lovers' way.

The wind will whisper in the maize;  
And at our trysting tree,  
To bring us back remembered days,  
You'll wait again for me.

Long, anxious years have sped between,  
Since first our trysts began;  
But you are still my Northern Queen,  
And I your Southern man.

Nor toil, nor care, nor age can dim  
The sunlight of the Past,  
When he with her, and she with him,  
Keeps covenant at last.

Aye, all the fruits first passion bore  
Shall from that Past come forth,  
And we will lovers be, once more  
Enraptured in the North.



## THE DEAD TREE.

It knew a life of leaf and bough  
That sapless stands, laid naked now  
    To Time's cold scorning.  
Once, in its deep, ambrosial shade,  
The Wind, a wizard Harper, played  
    By night and morning.

Once, from its branches, skyward flung,  
In green and gold the parrots hung  
    A spoil de-flowering  
From snow-white blossoms honey-sweet;  
While overnight, about its feet,  
    Fell manna showering.

Red sap—that at the touch unseen  
Of Spring slow-dripped—bestained the green  
    Grass growing under,  
As if by some sharp inward thorn  
Its forest heart were pierced and torn  
    In grief asunder.

Then, too, the young spring leaves became,  
Like woodland virgins, red with shame  
    Of Love's undoing,  
And blushed in high retreat to see,  
With dance of drunken ecstasy,  
    A world gone wooing.

When Winter walked with prim July,  
As wolf winds harried o'er the sky  
    Cloud fleeces airy,  
Its boughs, like penitents ashamed  
Of Summer's wantoning, proclaimed  
    Loud miserere.

When moonlit saplings threw their length  
Of shadow 'neath its buttressed strength,  
    And bush-land, gleaming  
In midnight splendor, mocked the day  
With silver replica, 'twould sway,  
    A tired knight, dreaming,

In frosted mail, until the East  
At last the Maid of Dawn released  
    From night's dominion;  
And home the night birds 'plaining drew  
And forth the song birds gaily flew—  
    On burnished pinion.

Though o'er the teeming lands and seas  
The sky with its infinities  
    Still bluely aches;  
Though yet in golden casque and helm  
The Sovran sun a daily realm  
    Of azure marches;

Though round his fiery throne be whirled  
This wondrous atom of a world  
Through years unending ;  
No more a wizard wind shall play  
Aeolian songs by night or day  
On green boughs bending.

Now from its fertile height the meed  
Of honeyed flower and wrinkled seed  
Fall earthward never.  
This edifice that some Great Hand  
For its brief tenant, nobly planned,  
Lies prone for ever.

*So reads the law! Birds, bards, and bees,  
Fair ladies, lions, toads and trees  
In turn must perish.....  
Of all the living host that pains  
To live, not ONE the life retains  
That all lives cherish!*

## KEIRA.

When Youth, a callow Knight untried,  
    With golden spurs to win,  
Rode bright in armor at his side,  
    And, all his Soul within,  
Love sang him on a harp apart  
    A song of young desire—  
He, careless, threw another heart  
    On Life's red altar fire.

On Keira rose the sun that day,  
    By Illawarra green;  
On grand old Keira, far away  
    Beyond the Might-Have-Been.  
The sun on Keira, like an earl,  
    Still flaunts his banners brave;  
But at his feet the dews impearl  
    The grass above a grave.

Oh, whiter than the surf was she  
    That breaks those coasts along;  
And redder than the coral tree  
    That grows by Gerringong;  
And graceful as the springing palm  
    On Illawarra hills;  
And sweeter than the meadow balm  
    By cool Shoalhaven rills.

A maiden of old fairyland,  
With dove eyes, shy and brown ;  
A youth with Happiness in hand,  
Who flung the rare gift down !  
For he was tall and true and strong,  
In her adoring eyes ;  
Nor could he harbor thought of wrong,  
Be perjured or unwise.

To her he came, Love's Avatar,  
Resistless, from the West ;  
Upon his forehead shone the star  
Of Morning for his crest.  
World-old her dream, as songs aver  
By primal poets sung ;  
But new and ever sweet to her  
Who trusted and who clung.

He scorned the guerdon he had won,  
And went his youthful ways ;  
So fame bewitched him, and anon  
He drank the cup of Praise.  
Then Gold and Women snared his thought,  
And drew him to his fall ;  
He strove, he conquered, won and sought  
And lived—to curse it all.

Grey hairs lie on him, and his brow  
Is ploughed by Time. The goad  
Is ever ; but he would that now  
He took the *other* road ;

For, often as his mem'ry brings  
Its echoes from Beyond,  
One voice through all the distance rings,  
Despairing, lost and fond.

He hears it in the crowded towns;  
He hears it on the seas;  
He hears it where the star-dome crowns  
The bush infinities.

*"Come back to grand old Keira;  
I wait, dear heart, for thee;  
Come back again to Keira,  
And Love, and Youth, and Me."*

The sun on Keira, sinking yet,  
Doth furl his banners brave;  
And at his feet the night-dews wet  
The grass above her grave.  
Its wreath of joy, its cross of pain  
Each generation bears;  
But Time shall surely reap the grain  
And sift it from the tares.

And *this* is true; all else is vain  
And idle at the last:—  
No foot shall ever find again  
The cross roads of the Past.  
Unto the Dark and Narrow Place  
Each man must bring his load;  
And woe to him who turned his face  
From his appointed road!



## THE QUEST OF NO AVAIL.

It was starlight on Euphrates, o'er a thousand years  
ago,

And a Dreamer by the River watched its silken, silver  
flow.

"Give," he cried, "my Idol to me, from thy voiceless  
Night, O Death:

I would hold again her sweetness; breathe the perfume  
of her breath!"

*Naught the Solemn River answered, and the Silent Stars  
shone on.*

Now 'tis starlight on a River in the new Australian  
night,

And the countless flow'rs of Heaven bloom in endless  
fields of light.

"Give me back," a Dreamer crieth to the silken silver  
stream—

"Give me back my shattered Idol; give me back my  
vanished Dream!"

*Naught the Solemn River answers, and the Silent Stars  
shine on.*

## WHITE ROSE.

Once in a garden wondrous fair—  
Do *you* remember yet?—  
We drank the sweet, seductive air  
Of musk and mignonette.

For you and me the flowers and  
The leaves their glories shed,  
And all the world was Wonderland  
Wherever we might tread.

The drooping lilacs and the stocks,  
The pansies, tender-eyed,  
The foolish, flaunting hollyhocks,  
The maiden daisies pied,

The peony with painted face,  
The star-like cornflower blue,  
And blooms of tender tropic grace,  
Their soft reflections threw.

The brave hibiscus burned and bled,  
The gladioli flared—  
Like lamps of love, to guide, you said,  
Our footsteps as we fared.

Have you forgotten how we stood  
Beneath an aspen tree,  
To see the sun beyond the wood  
Go down in royalty?

One tall white rose beside us paid  
Her homage to the sun;  
Till on her virgin mouth he laid  
Red tribute meekly won.

Then your dear mouth I claimed in fee—  
White Rose, can *you* forget—  
Thou Flower of All-the-World to me  
Who art forever yet—

That fragrance falling in the dusk,  
Those trembling aspen leaves,  
The subtle languor, born of musk  
And scented-lily sheaves?

The stars above us deeply grew  
In numbers, one by one,  
Your hair was jewelled with the dew . . .  
And all the world went on!

Ah not again, again, again,  
That Garden of Delight  
Shall hear the footsteps of us twain  
Fall gently in the night.

The desert of our stony fate  
No fair love-fragrance knows;  
We turned us from our Eden's gate. . .  
God keep us both—White Rose.

## YAMBA.

High Northern suns their brazen shields,  
Like warriors, hang above the fields  
Where Sultan Summer frankly yields  
    His plenteous boon ;  
Like nautch girls dance the naked days  
Down avenues of cane and maize,  
While on his pipes the North-Wind plays  
    A careless tune.

From ranges walled, through gates ajar  
At Copmanhurst and Yugilbar,  
Pours down the Clarence from afar  
    His noble tide ;  
And, spreading forth in creek and arm,  
Enrichens with his waters warm  
A fertile land of field and farm  
    In deltas wide.

But, when this vassal task is done,  
With all his winding courses run,  
He seeks reward for service won ;  
    And to his queen,  
The shining Sea, whose silver shores  
Are musical with rhythmic oars,  
At last his singing soul outpours  
    By Yamba green !

The depths of noon are rarely stirred  
By restless foot or roving bird ;  
But in the topaz morn are heard—  
    Like lutes afar,

Of suitors calling from the green  
Recess of gardens Florentine—  
The reed birds in their nests unseen  
By Yamba bar.

As tuneful heralds of a feast,  
When Morning flaunts the conquered East,  
With scarlet regiments released  
From Night's duress,  
Beyond the lawns, where fall in showers  
Of snow the great magnolia flowers,  
The magpies from their leafy towers  
Their joys express.

By rolling marsh and rainbowed stream  
The opal-tinted dewdrops gleam  
And cluster in a rajah's dream ;  
First spoils of Day  
From hyacinth and lily swept,  
They pearl the couches where they slept,  
As purple princes who bewept  
The Night's delay.

Oh, Land of drowsy days sublime  
Where dwelled my Heart, in rest and rhyme,  
Through all a golden summertime!  
In dreams again  
I see thy sunlit splendors blaze ;  
And, walking in a moonlit maze,  
I hear the night wind where it plays  
Among the cane.

I see, untrammelled of the town,  
Young Chloris in her skirt of brown,  
Uplifted coyly, urging down

The spotted kine.

White petticoats, like homing sails,  
Come flutt'ring o'er the stockyard rails,  
And, by the polished milking pails,

Bring up aline.

Where netted jungles green the blue  
Distractions of the hillward view,  
The crested pigeons call and coo

With ruffled throats ;

And Chloris, is it right or wrong  
That all the burden of their song  
Is "I—love—you" the whole day long

In pleading notes?

His floral torch in upward blaze  
To light the darkened jungle ways,  
In Spring the Northern flame-tree lays ;

And Chloris, fain

I'd play, as in sweet hours ago,  
That quiet woodland stage upon  
A warm, impassioned, Corydon

To you again.

Alas, the dramas that have been!  
The ravished musk and myrtle green  
That crowned a comely country queen

Are dead and sere:



But Mem'ry, folded like a rose  
Long pressed between book pages, throws  
A fragrance from the Past that shows  
Our hearts how dear

Were those enraptured hours ago,  
When through the woodlands, on and on,  
Sweet Chloris strayed with Corydon  
Love's pathway far ;  
When by the pen of seeming chance,  
Was written in the Book "Romance,"  
A line that flashes like a lance  
By Yamba bar.

A gallant, fed with swift desire,  
Uplifted then his crest of fire  
And smote upon a burning lyre  
The Northern sun ;  
A lady in her laces white  
To be the bridesmaid of delight  
Came forth the ivory-bosomed Night,  
Besought and won.

By silver sea and golden sand  
We twain have wandered hand in hand,  
When all the world was lovers' land,  
My Chloris dear ;  
Nor shall the years our mem'ries cheat  
Of love that triumphs in defeat,  
Though long the musk and myrtle sweet  
Be dead and sere.

## SOUTH OF GABO.

The young gales hatch below the Snares ;  
As fledglings wild, uncouth,  
A fierce Antarctic dam prepares  
Their flight of fear and ruth.

From icy nests on crags forlorn,  
And bergs and glaciers bold,  
They flutter forth, for aye to mourn  
Their birthplace lorn and cold.

Full-pinioned, at the Tasman Sea,  
They leave along the crests,  
In shrieking, loud, witch revelry,  
White feathers from their breasts.

They scream around the lonely isles  
Like sad-voiced restless things  
That sweep perforce the darkened miles  
With strong, far-spreading wings.

From Wilson's up to cloud-capped Howe  
Their giant playground lies,  
When on each spray-drenched harbor brow  
The "Stand-off" signal flies.

Then South of Gabo watch and ware  
The shipmen as they go ;  
For o'er the hummocks, whitely bare,  
The cutting sand-drifts blow ;

And cruel rock-knives, hidden, wait  
With edges sharp as steel,  
Along a coast of Evil Fate,  
Each doomed shore-driven keel.

Here lie the dead ships one by one;  
Out here the surges croon  
The *Federal* to her rest-place gone,  
The sunken *Ly-ee-moon*.

Long kelp and seaweed, through the curl  
Of combers all apleam,  
The floating hair of some drowned girl  
In waving tresses seem.

Here, graved beneath the golden sands  
And iridescent shell,  
Lost sailors out of distant lands,  
Unsought, are sleeping well.

But South of Gabo, when those strong  
And wayward winds are done,  
'Tis all a deep, harmonious song  
Of Sea and Land and Sun.

The little cutters spread their wings,  
From Eden to Cape Schanck.  
The coaster's rusty framework rings  
The hymn of rod and crank.

The ketches, leaving in their wake  
An odor of benzine,  
With quick explosions noisy take  
Their way across the green.

With wattle-bark and fish and maize,  
From five to twenty tons,  
The midget fleet goes down the bays,  
And seaward, daring, runs.

With seasoned crews, of twos and threes,  
To handle wheel and sheet,  
Steal up and down the changing seas,  
The fathers of our fleet.

Hard-fisted, lean Australians these  
Who know the fickle bars,  
The soundings and the mysteries  
Of clouds and tides and stars.

When South of Gabo roars the brood  
Of all the gales of Hell,  
They—long before—for shelter stood  
And anchored safe and well.

But here and there along the coast,  
Sea-worn and salt with foam,  
Old wreckage gives the brood to boast  
Of ships that came not home.

Oh, South of Gabo—where the Heel  
Of All Australia stands,  
Their hearts are like the tested steel,  
And iron are their hands.

And South of Gabo—where no ease  
Of Capricorn they ken,  
Is bred by rougher shores and seas,  
A stronger race of men.

From South of Gabo yet may track  
By sea-trail sternly forth,  
The men who'll hurl Invasion back,  
Defeated, from the North.

## THE BEACH.

Like Cleopatra's neck incurved,  
Or Phryne's arms of snow,  
From Bastion Rock to Gabo swerved  
And bended as a bow ;  
It offers to the Austral sun  
It's miles of silvern sand,  
In virgin beauty, yet unwon  
By any spoiler's hand.

At night I hear the ancient seas—  
White-headed seers, along  
These darkened shores their memories  
Pour forth in epics long  
Of years primeval. And in strange,  
Soft, minor chords reply  
Old pilgrim winds that reef and range,  
Unrested, wander by.

Deep secrets theirs—of æons gone,  
When suns and systems, worn  
By endless forces, fiercely shone  
In nascent strength newborn ;  
When gave the seventh Pleiad out,  
Unshamed, her starry boon ;  
And glowed, o'er jungles north and south,  
A tropic polar moon.



Time's burdens and the yoke of years  
Have tamed their early might;  
No more the cow'ring caveman hears  
The storm gods in the night;  
No more do chartless shallops hie  
A furtive course from shore;  
And in their quiet havens lie  
The dead ships evermore.

But they who nursed the germ of life,  
The new amœboid cell,  
From which, or Science errs, the strife  
Of all that follows fell.  
What marvels have they locked within  
Their ocean hearts? What dreams  
Of empire and of effort in  
Their world-encircling streams?

Betimes, a-dreaming, when my camp-  
Fire reds the foreland, I  
Can dimly hear with Titan tramp  
The Ages marching by;  
And, scroll by scroll, the Eras, rolled  
On mighty parchments, pearled  
With priceless truths, to me unfold  
The Story of the World.

Then deep-sea voices faint recall,  
And deep-sea echoes bring  
The roar of monsters and the fall  
Of preying foot and wing;  
These pass and perish at a breath,  
Their weaker types remain—  
Slow evolution armed with death  
From bulk, reduces brain!

I hear wild winds primeval fan  
Volcanic mountains steep,  
Where, in the quiet future, Man  
His fertile tilth will reap.  
I see an Everlasting Force  
Re-mould, destroy, re-shape;  
Give firmer foothold to the horse  
And forehead to the ape.

Anon these songs of effort cease  
And kinder themes outpour,  
In turn, the diva-throated seas  
Unto a listening shore.  
Aye, then methinks, I hear retold  
Old stories ever new,  
Of Jason and the heroes bold  
Red-hearted, proud, and true.

Old galleys dip their carven beaks  
    Into the azure brine,  
That in their Delphic feasts fair Greeks  
    May pour the Samian wine.  
In rose gondolas, silken-sailed  
    The royal Doges go,  
And young Crusaders silver-mailed,  
    With bannerets of snow.

Rome's daring eagles, flaunting high  
    Their wings of blood, go on.  
Fair burn across a sunset sky  
    Brave banners of St. John.  
Columbus, peering through the dusk,  
    I see fare forth amain—  
A glory harvest from the husk  
    Of Littleness to gain.

I glimpse John Cabot with his white  
    Hair rimed by northern spray;  
And grandly through the awful night  
    I hear his courage say:  
"As near to Heaven, friends, by sea—  
    Though Death wait either hand—  
As near to Heaven now we be  
    As e'er we'll be on land."

I hear Magellan dauntless cry,  
    "Not if we eat the hides  
From off this vessels's yards shall I  
    Turn back, whate'er betides,

Till these new seas are conquered !” Drake,  
A-roaring down the main,  
With gallant ruffians in his wake  
I see go out again.

Aye, out again and home again,  
Along historic years,  
For either glory, love, or gain,  
Go forth these buccaneers ;  
The pirate brood, with laden chests,  
Outspilling plundered toll ;  
The black sea eagles in their nests,  
Blood-stained, but brave of soul.

The saucy sloop, the frigate gay,  
The fighting forty-four ;  
The oaken hulls of Nelson’s day,  
The ships of trade and war —  
Night long the roving waters bring  
Their ghostly memories ;  
Night long the ancient surges sing  
High human histories.

But when the east, attendant, waits  
Her mansions to adorn,  
And with skilled magic decorates  
The bridal couch of Morn ;

With royal purple drapes each plinth  
Of frowning rock, and fills  
With topaz and with hyacinth  
The hollows of the hills.

When low the inlet and its isles,  
In Asiatic guise,  
Salaam with soft and pliant smiles  
The Sultan of the Skies;  
As from the lakes a silver veil  
Of mist is deftly drawn,  
An Amazon in golden mail  
The Beach salutes the Dawn.

White lace of foam around her knees,  
She flutters like a girl;  
And threads her blue embroideries  
With seaweed and with pearl.  
The spotted cowrie and the fair,  
Frail nautilus are hers,  
Rose spirals and the shining, rare  
Sea shells and mariners.

The jewel caskets of the deeps  
Lie ready to her hand,  
In ev'ry tropic wave that leaps  
Foam-freighted to the sand.  
And, now, in cadence, measured, slow,  
From minstrels submarine  
Sweet rhymes and rondels gaily flow  
Across this sunlit scene.

Of Life and *Now* these minstrels chant—

A pagan song of old,

The song dark lovers of Levant

Outsang in hours of gold. . . .

A radiance now, a rare delight,

A dream of love and wine,

She lieth in the morning light

This Austral beach of mine.



## MAID OF GERRINGONG.

She was riper than a cherry on the far New England  
slopes ;

She was brighter than the vision of a poet's virgin hopes,  
And the days were all a picture, and the nights were  
all a song,

While I tarried and I married with the maid of Gerrin-  
gong.

And the sun came up to greet us from the waters blue  
and wide,

And the Western hills were crimson with his glory when  
he died ;

And the moon she queened above us 'mid her white,  
adoring throng,

While I drank my cup of pleasure with the maid of  
Gerringong.

Yea, the moon she lent her silver and the sun he lent  
his gold,

In the years before our sorrows and our sins had made  
us old—

But I'll drain another beaker, and I'll sing another song  
To the love and youth that left me—like my maid of  
Gerringong.

Oh, my days of earth are numbered, as the days of men  
must be,

For our life is like the shadow of a sail upon the sea ;  
And 'tis idle now to wonder if that love was right or  
wrong,

But it haunts and haunts me ever, oh, my maid of Ger-  
ringong.

## THE BUSHLAND CALL.

To-night, dear heart, I hear the Call,  
The Call that never leaves me.  
The old Bush lullabies and all  
The song that glads, yet grieves me.

In bitter joy, in pleasant woe,  
The wanderlust doth find me.  
To stay I dare not, still to go—  
With all thy charms to bind me!

Last night, beneath the silent stars,  
*Your* voice'compelled, enthralled me;  
To-night a Voice across the bars  
From seaward places called me.

Low in my ears the Deep Seas croon:  
"Away! ere Fate defy thee!  
The Waters silver with the moon  
Shall golden tresses tie thee?"

"Shall witching lips and throat of white  
For evermore proclaim you  
A recreant to old delight,  
Of open ways that claim you?"

Dear Love of mine, your breath is sweet  
As wild red briar roses—  
But, oh! the sward beneath the feet,  
When Night in Bushland closes!

Dear Heart of mine, if it should be  
That your fond charms prove stronger,  
What will the Voices say to me  
As Summer days grow longer?

Were it not best while Love is young  
To break the chain enthralling?  
For, oh! the Song the Waters sung!  
And, oh! my Bushland calling!

## ON SAND.

An ebb-tide, falling, bared the white,  
Hard beach ; where, in the sun,  
I walked betimes, in mood to write  
Of all my knowledge won,  
From life and death, *one* song which might  
At least be finely done.

The sun, resplendent, in its sky,  
O'er-arching burned. Ablaze  
With gold the hours went by,  
As, witched within their silken maze—  
By life's mid fountains dreaming—I  
Drank deep that day of days.

This pageant of creation seemed  
More vivid on the scroll  
Of Being writ. Like watch fires gleamed  
Great thoughts. With Amazonian roll,  
Clear floods of higher vision streamed,  
Deep-watered, through my soul.

Rare words on rhythm—like to spheres  
Pearl-clustered at the springs  
Of space—re-echoed in my ears ;  
Or homing birds that fold their wings  
When each in downward passage nears  
Its garden of glad things.

Rare thoughts befel, as moths that low  
O'er star-lit petals poise;  
Or fireflies in the night which glow  
The message of their joys  
In quiet groves beyond this show  
Of empty strife and noise.

Thus, to and fro on buoyant feet  
I paced to make a song  
Triumphant, that for aye might beat  
On eagle wings along;  
The hearts of men, in couplets sweet  
And resonant and strong.

The day—one day from all the tale  
Of days that come and go—  
Was ended. Now, amort, with pale,  
Spent majesty aglow;  
And blood upon his golden mail,  
The kingly sun lay low.

I turned, and lo! along the laced  
Sands, creeping slow, with spite  
Of seeming purpose; all my traced  
Proud steps of effort bright  
The flood, incoming, had erased,  
And left me—with the night.

## THE DOERS.

They gathered on the strand, with a hatchet in the hand—

And the same was made of stone—

They pointed mammoth spears at the Puzzle of the Years

In the primal dusk alone.

They took the hollowed bole and they nosed it to the roll  
In a neolithic dawn;

And sang a cave-man's song as they crept the shores  
along—

Going westward with the morn.

Each new-found land they trod did they dedicate to  
god—

Who was fashioned out of wood;

They looted and they lied, and they devilled and they  
died,

And the whole result was good:

For the traders of the clan followed slowly on the van  
Of the Doers who had done;

Till the merchant service grew from a single bark canoe  
To a fleet of forty-one!

They bartered bone and hide for the goods of t'other-  
side,

And they cheated in the trade

That the daughter of a thief might be wedded to a  
chief—

So the hairy gossips said



When the Punic days were done and Hellenic days  
begun,  
They were beating down the wind,  
With their doers in the lead, and the crafty merchant  
breed  
Rowing closely on behind.

And they cut, with classic oaths, many feeble foreign  
throats  
For the benefit of Trade;  
Ere they bore the wine and corn from the gateways of  
the morn,  
That their fortunes might be made.

Then the Roman had his day, for his Doer led the way  
With unfailing sword in hand;  
He was valiant, and he knew that his gods would see  
him through  
For his Roman Fatherland.

The Genoese out went, when the Pinta's sails were bent,  
On his great Immortal Quest,  
And he pointed out the road for the trader and his load  
To a newer world out west.

Old Magellan and his crew found another highway  
through;  
They were doers in their day,  
And their work on Earth was set, as the tasks appointed  
yet  
Of the men who lead the way.

They have left a royal name which is called in song  
books, "fame;"

But their mighty hands are still,  
They are resting near and far, where the quiet legions  
are  
In the "havens by the hill."

. . . . .

Till the coming of the years, when the aerial cannoneers  
Sight their Krupps along the blue,  
There will ever be a need for the grim and active breed  
Of the Doers—who can do.

Let the trader to his stool! Let the teacher to the  
school!

Let the artist to his art!  
It was ever then as now with the farmer at his plough,  
And the merchant in the mart.

But, a grim, undaunted band they will strive by sea and  
land;

They will battle round and through:  
And this rolling planet still shall be subject to the will  
Of the Doers who can do.

And the further seas shall hold and the desert sands  
enfold

Their unconquered souls anew;  
And the world shall know the sons and the galleys and  
the guns  
Of the Doers who can do.

## COMRADES.

Comrade mine, beyond the Shadow,  
Lies our Land of Eldorado,  
Lies our Aidenn fair and free;  
All the wide Australia's glory,  
All her nature-song and story,  
Shall belong to you and me.

Gypsy twain, across the Ranges  
We shall see the silent changes  
Of the sunshine and the shade;  
We shall hear the songs, enthralling,  
Of the bush-birds softly calling  
From the leafy ever-glade.

With the roads, the roads, before us,  
With our blue skies burning o'er us,  
When the clover's wet with dew,  
We will share unending pleasure  
Of the Morning, and her treasure  
Shall be free to me and you.

Oh, the plains, the plains, are ours, lad,  
All their herbage bright with flow'rs, lad,  
Waving in the sunlit West,  
As our camp-fire's smoke, uplifted  
In the gloaming cool, is drifted.  
Over lazy lands of Rest.

And our troubled souls, and saddened,  
Shall be upward borne and gladdened  
By a music of the sea,  
Where—on moonlit beaches gleaming  
Under restless tides instreaming—  
Gypsy twain we wander free.

Ours the Northern jungle's greenness,  
Ours a cool Monaro's keenness,  
Ours a rolling Riverine;  
And the golden wheat-lands glowing,  
And the hill creeks seaward flowing  
From their Gippsland ranges green.

Gypsy twain, the World uncaring,  
Ours the World shall be for sharing;  
And the Bushland wide and free,  
From Cape York unto the Leeuwin,  
Shall be ours to dare and do in,  
Shall belong to you and me.

## THE WESTERN ROAD.

My camp was by the Western Road—so new and yet so  
old—

The track the bearded diggers trod in roaring days of  
old ;

The road Macquarie and his wife, a hundred years ago,  
With warlike guard and retinue, went down in regal  
show.

The moon had silvered all the Bush ; now, like an arc  
light high,

She flickered in a scattered scud that dimmed the lower  
sky ;

And, dreaming by my dying fire, whose embers fainter  
glowed,

I saw their shadows flitting by— the People of the Road.

I heard the clank of iron chains, and, as an evil blast  
From some tormented nether world, the convict gangs  
went past

With sneering lips and leering eyes— gray ghosts of  
buried crime,

Who built a way for honest feet to tread in later time.

I heard the cruel click of steel ; the trained and mea-  
sured tread

Of soldiers of King George the Third, in coats of British  
red ;

The moon upon their muskets gleamed, as, marching two  
by two,  
They might have marched in better case the eve of  
Waterloo.

But, dreaming by my camp-fire still, uprose the merry  
horn;  
A heavy stage came lumb'ring up from Penrith in the  
morn:  
In beaver hats, the gentlemen their driver sat beside,  
The ladies in hooped petticoats and quaint chignons  
inside.

Ta-ran-ta-ra! Blue Mountains hills reechoed as they  
sung  
A lilt of love and long ago—when all the world was  
young.  
Ta-ran-ta-ra! Their shades went by, the bravest and  
the best,  
The first Australian pioneers—whose graves are in the  
West.

A night wind whispered in the gums; afar out went the  
cry  
Of mourning curlews on the flats, as madly galloped by  
A fugitive with pallid face and pistol butt to hand:  
Came, hard behind with ringing hoofs, a close pursuing  
band.

Then—well-remembered in my dream—a picture came to  
me  
Of bitter fruit that ripened once upon a roadside tree;



How trav'lers shunned the haunted spot and evermore  
forbode  
To camp beside the hangman's tree along the Western  
Road. . .

White-tilted in the moonlight went rough waggons, one  
by one,  
Piled high with household goods and stores of settlers  
dead and gone—  
Blithe British yeomen and their wives, and sons of  
younger sons,  
Who took tradition to the West, and axes, ploughs and  
guns.

These new-chum settlers tramped beside their dusty,  
creaking teams,  
Their minds were filled with marvels new and olden  
hopes and dreams;  
Their sons' tall sons still yeomen be, but mostly in the  
West  
They ride their silken thoroughbreds, and ruffle with  
the best.

A motley crowd of eager folk, with tools and tents in  
fold,  
Came on Adventure's early quest to Gulgong, grief, or  
gold;  
They passed me in a jostling host, with anger or with  
mirth,  
The fortune-seekers gathered from the ends of all the  
earth.

Yea, sailormen and tailormen, and prostitutes and peers,  
Some honest and of good intent, some rogues and buccaneers.

Their camp-fires lit the darkened range, where, by the  
creeks, they lay  
And dreamed of nuggets in their sleep—impatient for  
the day.

Came down the road a swaying coach, with troopers 'hind  
and fore—

The mounted escort thundered on by Lapstone Hill once  
more,

Their rifles at the shoulder slung, their scabbards long  
and bright;

They swung around the mountain side and rumbled out  
of sight.

Came up the road a swaying coach: his ribbons holding  
free,

The perfect driver tilted back his cherished cabbage-tree.  
His girl will meet him at the rails to-night in Hartley  
Vale—

So, clear the track, and let her pass, the mid-Victorian  
mail!

Long shadows fell across the road; the morepoke in the  
still

And solemn midnight voiced aloud his warnings on the  
hill.

Yet, tramping slow and riding fast along that winding  
track,

The People of the Road went West, and coached and  
footed back.

My camp-fire died in ashes gray, as through my dream  
there went  
That strange procession of the Past, on pay or plunder  
bent;  
The teamsters, drovers, swagsmen, "lags;" the lovers  
and the thieves—  
Until the East was red with Dawn, the dew upon the  
leaves.

They vanished with the haunted Night; their hope and  
high desire,  
As ashen as the grey, cold heap that erstwhile made my  
fire:  
Across the tree tops in the morn the golden sunlight  
showed;  
And clearly rose another day—along the Western Road.

# *Some Publications by the same Author*

---

## **River Rovers**

The Book of E. J. Brady's record Motor Boat Journey down the Murray River from Albury to Lake Alexandrina; profusely illustrated.

Cloth, with Map, 3/6 (Now in the Press)

---

## **The King's Caravan**

The Fascinating Story of an adventurous Waggon Trip across New South Wales and Queensland, from Sydney to Townsville. Illustrated.

12/6 Net.

---

## **Picturesque Port Phillip**

A Motor Car jaunt around Port Phillip. In attractive Souvenir book form, copiously illustrated by the camera,

Colored Cover, 1/- (Now in the Press)

---

**OBTAINABLE AT ALL BOOKSELLERS**

# *Some Publications by the same Author*

---

---

## **Bells and Hobbles**

Verse. Cloth Covers, 3/6

---

## **The Ways of Many Waters**

Verse. The Best Book of the Sea and Sailor  
Life yet published. Illustrated by Alex. Sass.

Cloth, 3/6

---

## **Bushland Ballads**

Verse. Suede Velvet Binding, Midget form.

1/3

---

## **Tom Pagdin, Pirate**

A Sensational Tale of boyish adventure  
in tropical Australia, with illustrations by  
Lionel Lindsay. Paper Covers, 1/-

---

---

**OBTAINABLE AT ALL BOOKSELLERS**



# Some of the Best Bells and Hobbies

The Way of the Warrior  
The Way of the Warrior  
The Way of the Warrior

The Way of the Warrior  
The Way of the Warrior  
The Way of the Warrior

The Way of the Warrior  
The Way of the Warrior  
The Way of the Warrior

The Way of the Warrior  
The Way of the Warrior  
The Way of the Warrior



CPSIA information can be obtained  
at [www.ICGtesting.com](http://www.ICGtesting.com)  
Printed in the USA  
LVHW01s0010130318

569660LV00019B/1320/P



9 781331 798989



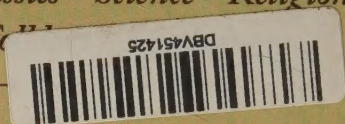


# Forgotten Books

*Forgotten Books' Classic Reprint Series  
utilizes the latest technology to regenerate  
facsimiles of historically important writings.*

*Careful attention has been made to accurately  
preserve the original format of each page whilst  
digitally enhancing the quality of the aged text.*

*Philosophy ~ Classics ~ Science ~ Religion  
History ~ Fiction*



# Forgotten Books

